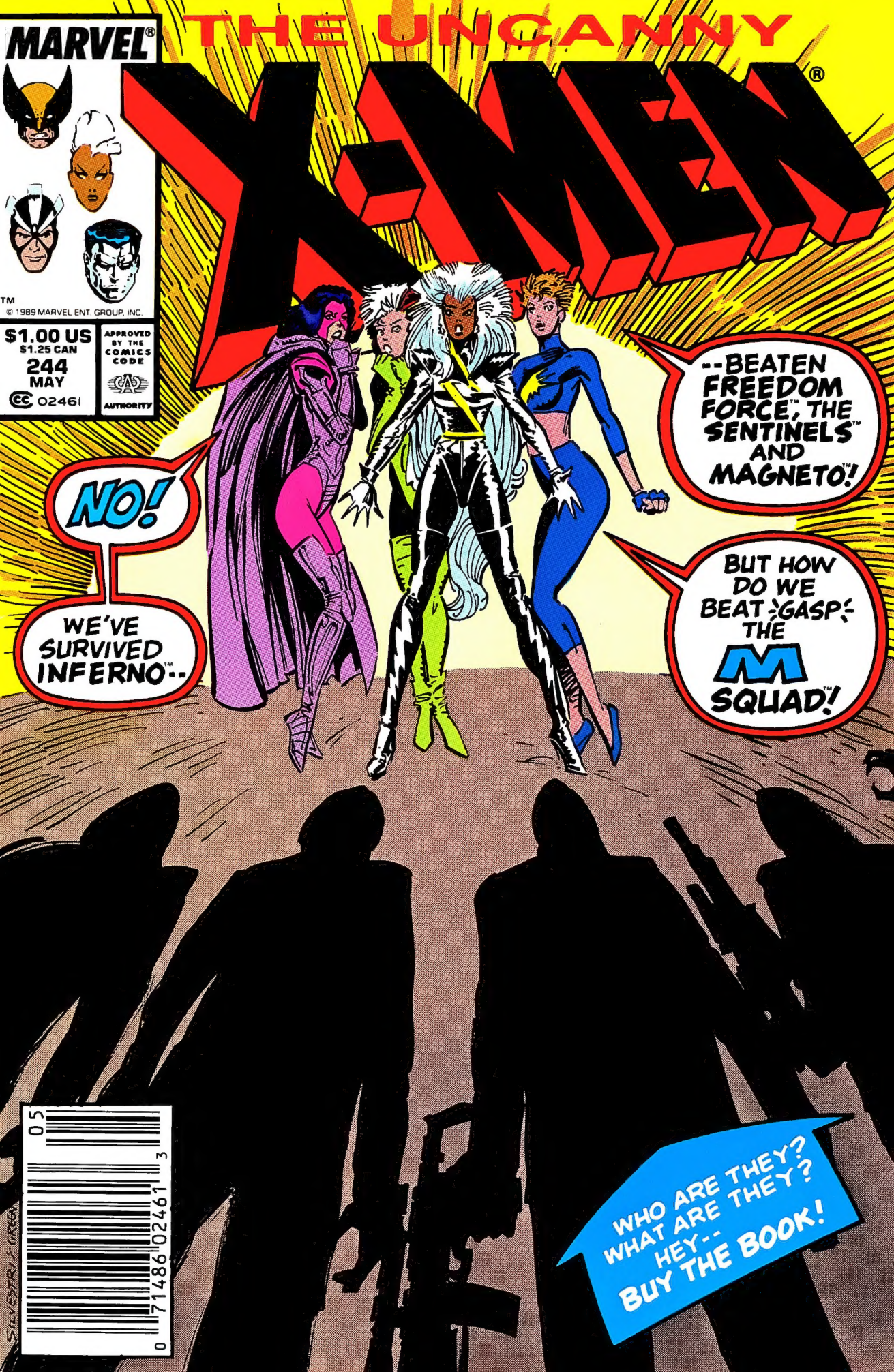
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NO!
WE'VE SURVIVED INFERNO™--
--BEATEN FREEDOM FORCE™, THE SENTINELS™ AND MAGNETO™!
BUT HOW DO WE BEAT :GASP: THE M SQUAD™!
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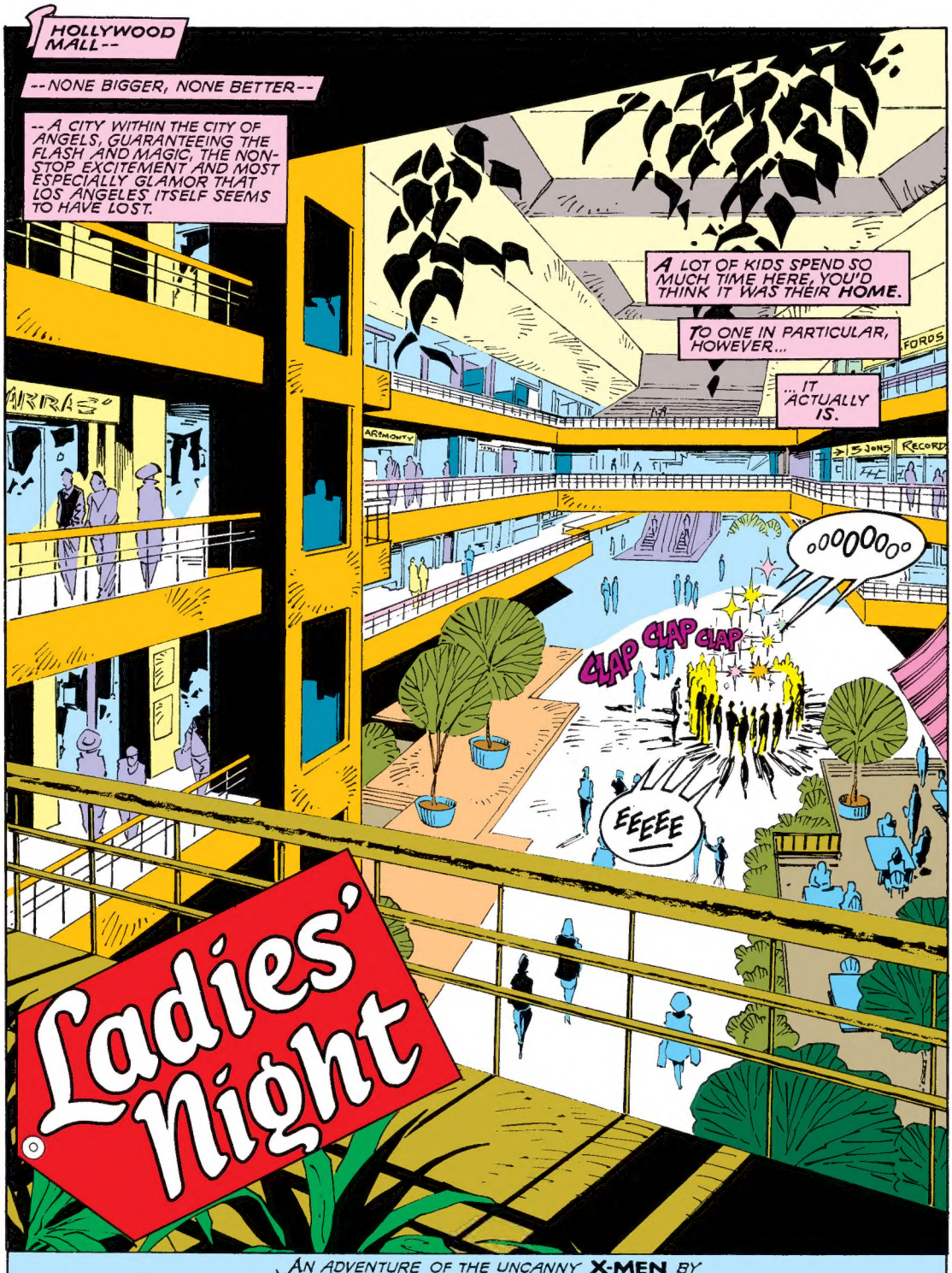

AN ADVENTURE OF THE UNCANNY **X-MEN** BY

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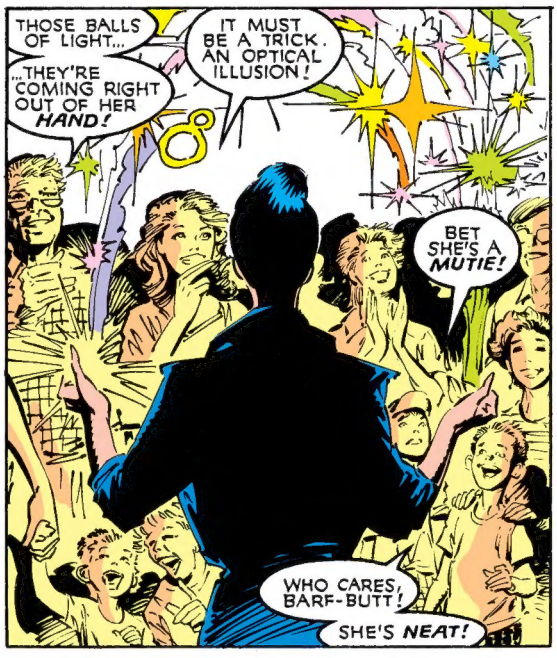
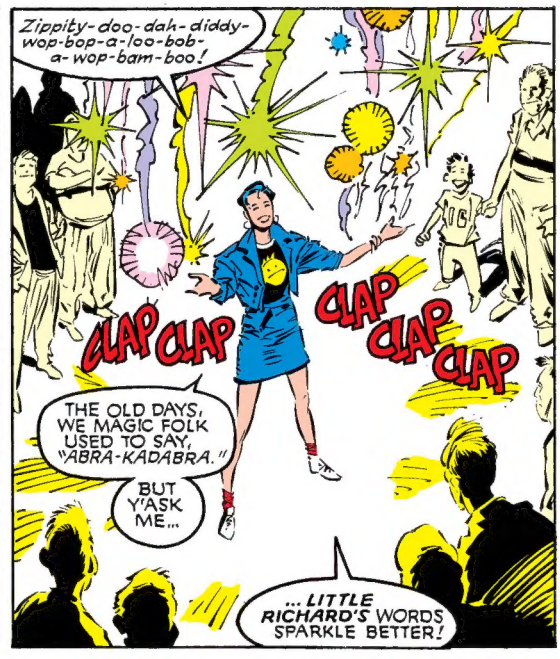
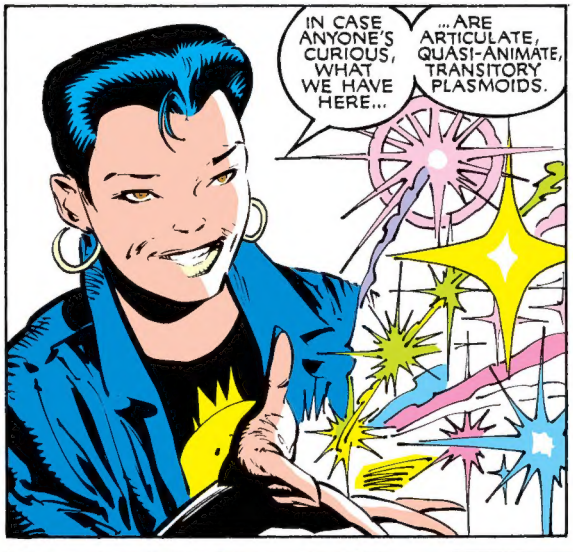
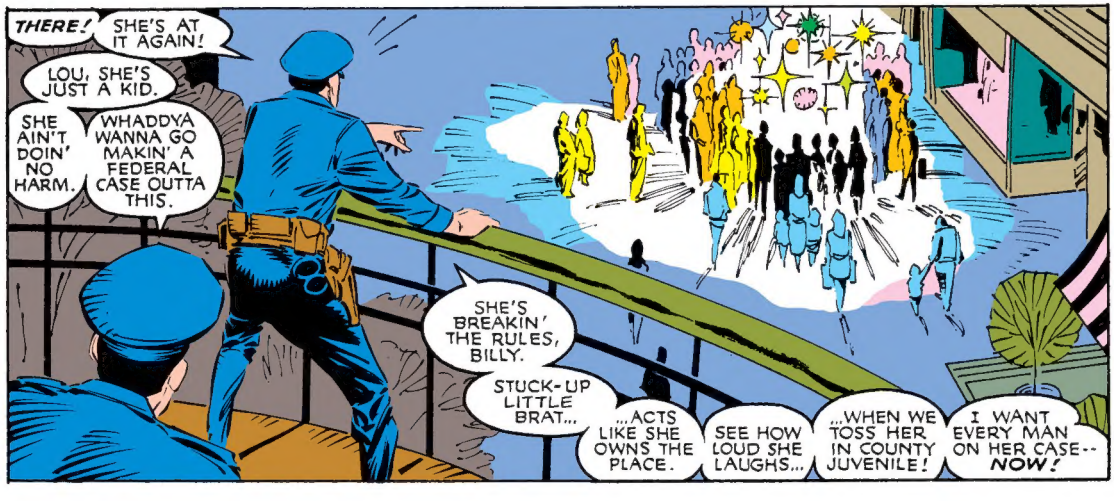

THOSE BALLS OF LIGHT...
...THEY'RE COMING RIGHT OUT OF HER HAND!
IT MUST BE A TRICK. AN OPTICAL ILLUSION!
BET SHE'S A MUTIE!
WHO CARES, BARF-BUTT!
SHE'S NEAT!

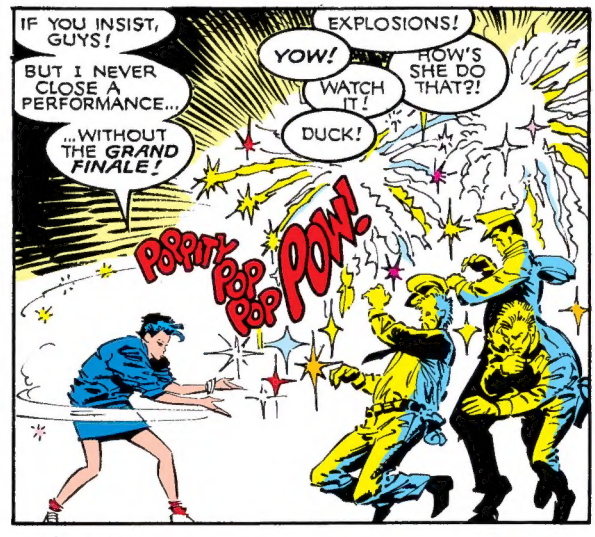

Zippity-doo-dah-diddy-wop-bop-a-loo-bob-a-wop-bam-boo!
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP
THE OLD DAYS, WE MAGIC FOLK USED TO SAY, "ABRA-KADABRA."
BUT Y'ASK ME...
... LITTLE RICHARD'S WORDS SPARKLE BETTER!


IN CASE ANYONE'S CURIOUS, WHAT WE HAVE HERE...
...ARE ARTICULATE, QUASI-ANIMATE, TRANSITORY PLASMOIDS.

PIECES OF RAW ENERGY...
...THAT COME WHEN I CALL...
...DO WHAT I TELL 'EM...
... AN' TAKE A HIKE ON SKIDOO-CUE.
THEY'RE LIKE FIREWORKS!

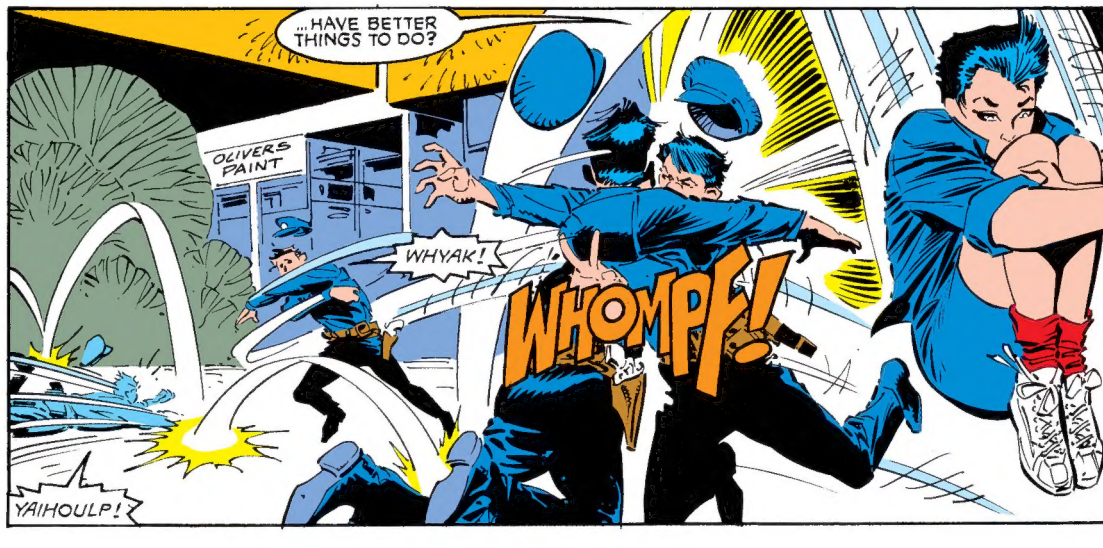

THERE!
SHE'S AT IT AGAIN!
LOU, SHE'S JUST A KID.
SHE AIN'T DOIN' NO HARM.
WHADDYA WANNA GO MAKIN' A FEDERAL CASE OUTTA THIS.
SHE'S BREAKIN' THE RULES, BILLY.
STUCK-UP LITTLE BRAT...
...ACTS LIKE SHE OWNS THE PLACE.
SEE HOW LOUD SHE LAUGHS...
...WHEN WE TOSS HER IN COUNTY JUVENILE!
I WANT EVERY MAN ON HER CASE-- NOW!

OUTTA THE WAY!
STEP ASIDE!
MALL SECURITY! CLEAR THE AREA, MOVE ALONG PLEASE.
SHOW'S OVER, SWEETIE!
OuhWW!
HEY!
QUIT SHOVING!


IF YOU INSIST, GUYS!
BUT I NEVER CLOSE A PERFORMANCE...
...WITHOUT THE GRAND FINALE!
EXPLOSIONS!
YOW!
WATCH IT!
HOW'S SHE DO THAT?!
DUCK!
POPPITY POP POP POW!

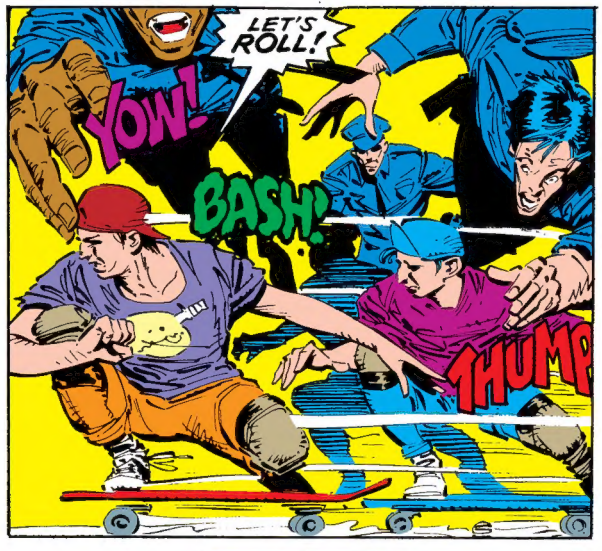
ANGSTROM, THIS IS MARCELLI!
COMIN' YOUR WAY!
NAIL HER!
YOU'RE OVER-REACTING, LOU.
YAY!
GO, GIRLY, GO!
ACTUALLY, MY NAME IS JUBILEE!

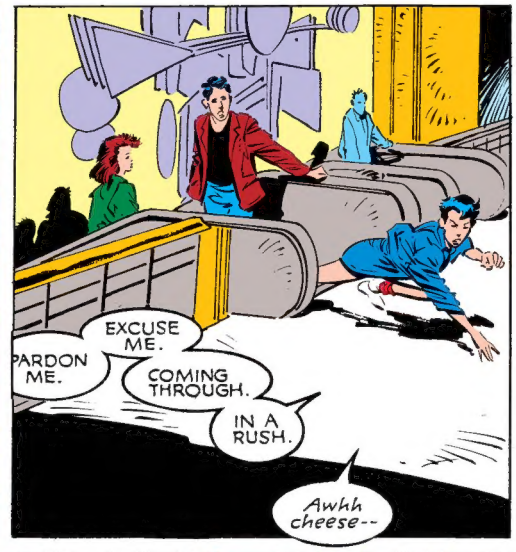
'CAUSE, WITH ME, EVERY DAY'S A CELEBRATION!
CONTACT, LOU.
ALL UNITS, MOVE IN!
Cheez-- DON'T YOU BRUISERS...

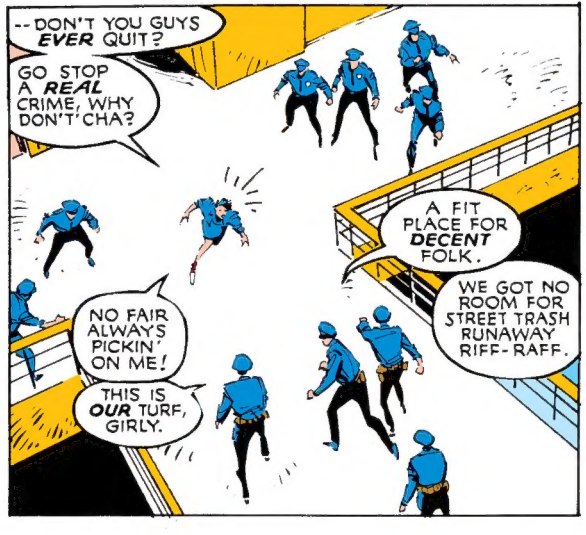

...HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO?
OLIVER'S PAINT
WHYAK!
WHOMPF!
YAIHOULP!

HEAD HER OFF AT THE ESCALATORS!
DON'T TEMPT ME, SULLIVAN!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SHOOT HER, LOU?
STOP!
STOP!
STOP!
STOP!
STOP!
STOP!
STOP!

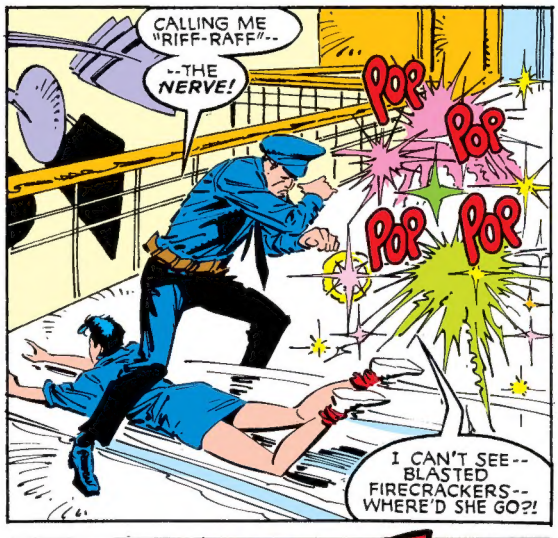
JUBILEE!
FAST MOVER.
FOR SOMEONE WITH NO WHEELS.
GIVIN' THE HUFF-'N'-PUFF RENTAL BADGES A RUN.
DON'T LIKE THE ODDS.
EVEN 'EM, MAYBE?
RADICAL!

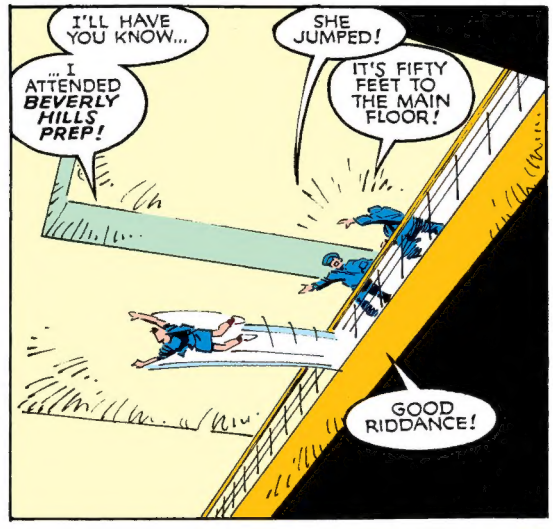

LET'S ROLL!
YOW!
BASH!
THUMP

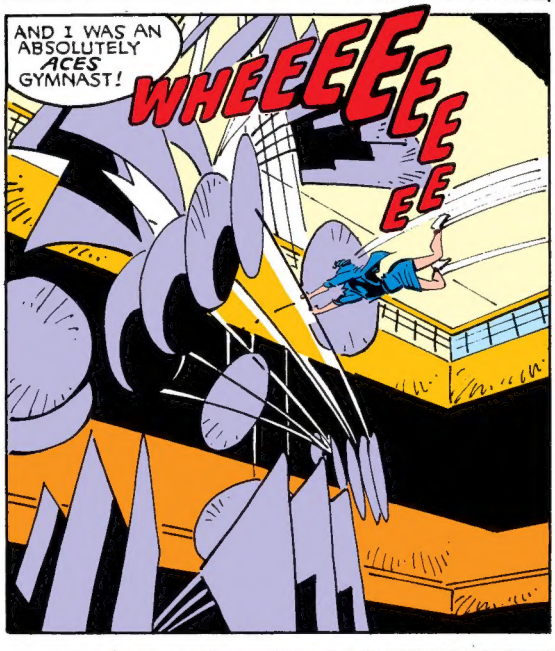

EXCUSE ME.
PARDON ME.
COMING THROUGH.
IN A RUSH.
Awhh cheese--


--DON'T YOU GUYS EVER QUIT?
GO STOP A REAL CRIME, WHY DON'T'CHA?
A FIT PLACE FOR DECENT FOLK.
WE GOT NO ROOM FOR STREET TRASH RUNAWAY RIFF-RAFF.
NO FAIR ALWAYS PICKIN' ON ME!
THIS IS OUR TURF, GIRLY.

WELL EXCUSE ME ALL TO BLAZES!
LOU, SHE'S THROWIN' THEM SPARKLIES!

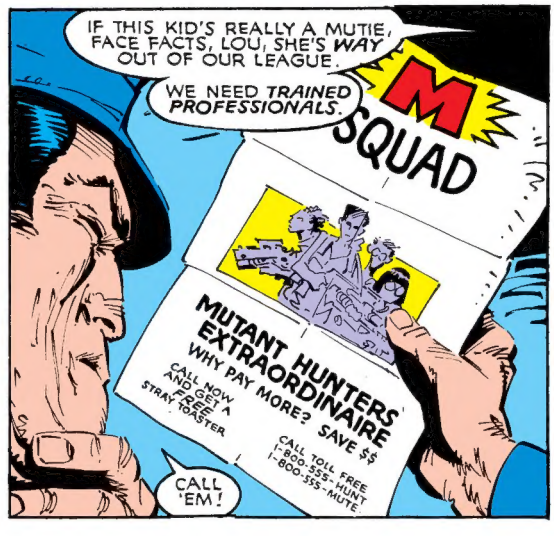

CALLING ME "RIFF-RAFF"--
--THE NERVE!
POP
POP
POP
POP
I CAN'T SEE-- BLASTED FIRECRACKERS-- WHERE'D SHE GO?!

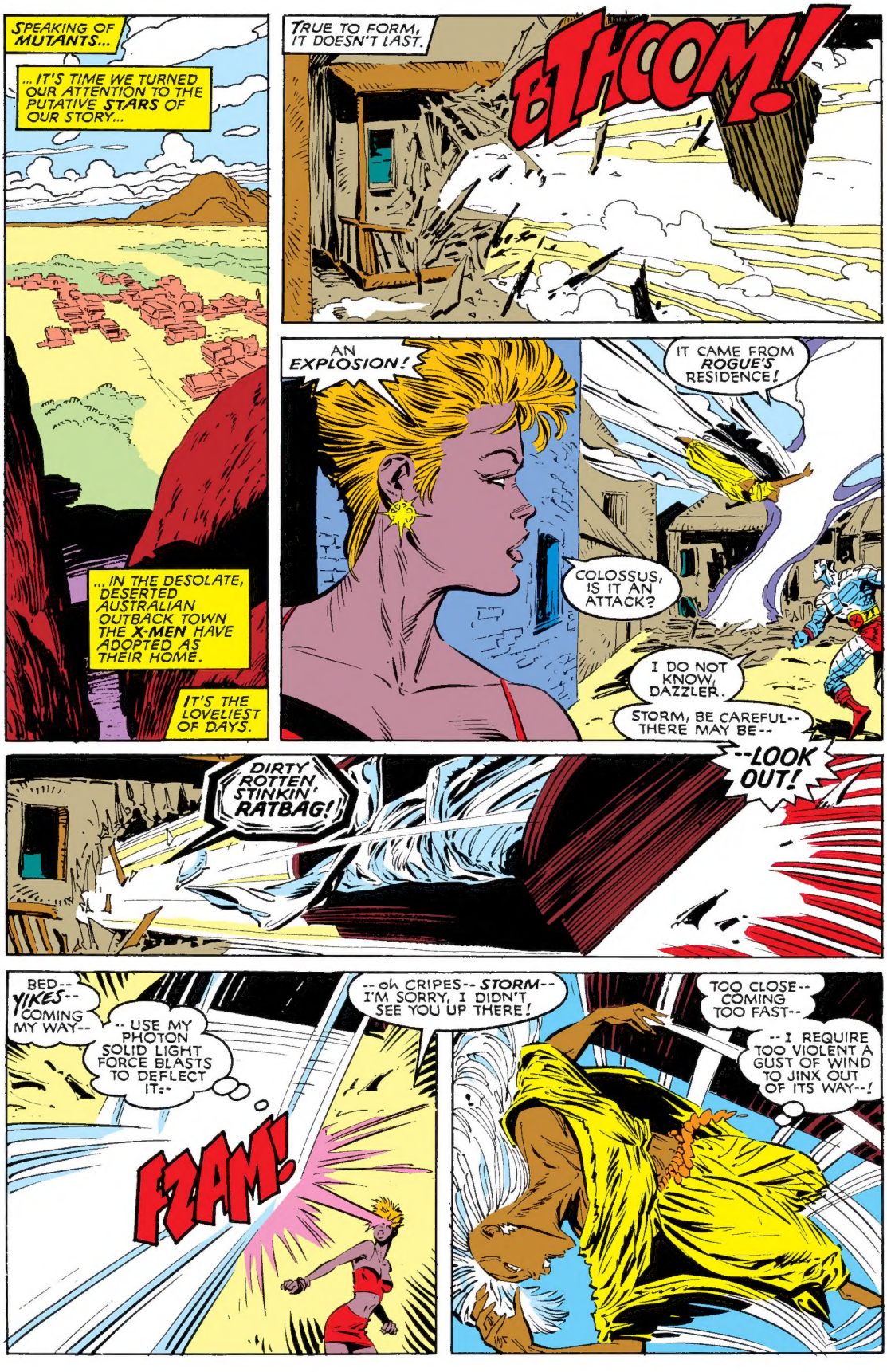

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW...
... I ATTENDED BEVERLY HILLS PREP!
SHE JUMPED!
IT'S FIFTY FEET TO THE MAIN FLOOR!
GOOD RIDDANCE!


AND I WAS AN ABSOLUTELY ACES GYMNAST!
WHEEEEEEEEEE

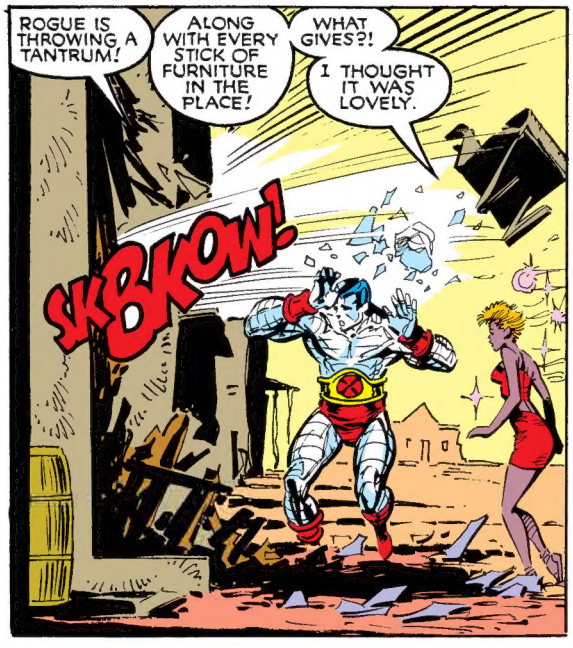
IS THIS FLASH, IS THIS STYLE, IS THIS GRACE-- OR WHAT?!
WHAT?
PHILISTINE!
HERE COME THE JUDGES' SCORES-- 9.8, 9.9, A PERFECT 10, 9.3, 9.8, AND FROM THE RUSSIANS, 3.7.
BUT THE CROWD ROARS, THEY DON'T CARE, THEY LOVE HER ANYWAY!

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, GUYS!
BE SEEING YOU!
I HATE HER I HATE HER I HATE HER!
YO, CHIEF, TAKE A GANDER AT THIS.


IF THIS KID'S REALLY A MUTIE, FACE FACTS, LOU, SHE'S WAY OUT OF OUR LEAGUE.
WE NEED TRAINED PROFESSIONALS.
M SQUAD
MUTANT HUNTERS EXTRAORDINAIRE
WHY PAY MORE? SAVE $$
CALL NOW AND GET A FREE STRAY TOASTER
CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-555-HUNT 1-800-555-MUTE
CALL 'EM!

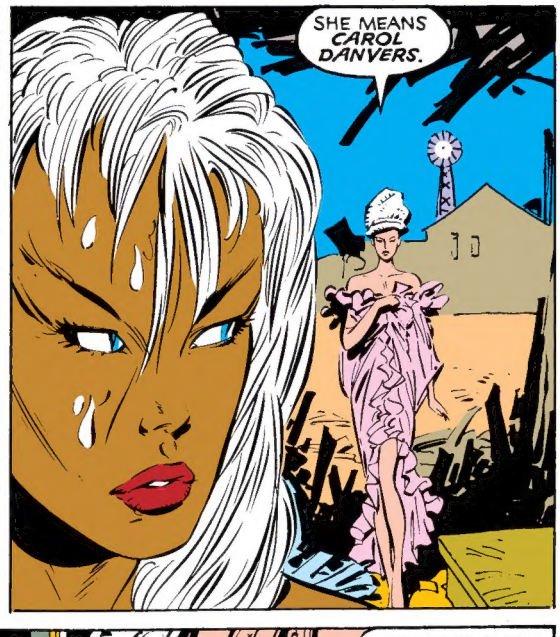

SPEAKING OF MUTANTS...
...IT'S TIME WE TURNED OUR ATTENTION TO THE PUTATIVE STARS OF OUR STORY...
...IN THE DESOLATE, DESERTED AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK TOWN THE X-MEN HAVE ADOPTED AS THEIR HOME.
IT'S THE LOVELIEST OF DAYS.
TRUE TO FORM, IT DOESN'T LAST.
BTHOOM!
AN EXPLOSION!
IT CAME FROM ROGUE'S RESIDENCE!
COLOSSUS, IS IT AN ATTACK?
I DO NOT KNOW, DAZZLER.
STORM, BE CAREFUL-- THERE MAY BE--
--LOOK OUT!
DIRTY ROTTEN, STINKIN' RATBAG!
BED-- YIKES-- COMING MY WAY--
-- USE MY PHOTON SOLID LIGHT FORCE BLASTS TO DEFLECT IT:-
FZAM!
-- oh CRIPES-- STORM-- I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T SEE YOU UP THERE!
TOO CLOSE-- COMING TOO FAST--
-- I REQUIRE TOO VIOLENT A GUST OF WIND TO JINX OUT OF ITS WAY--!

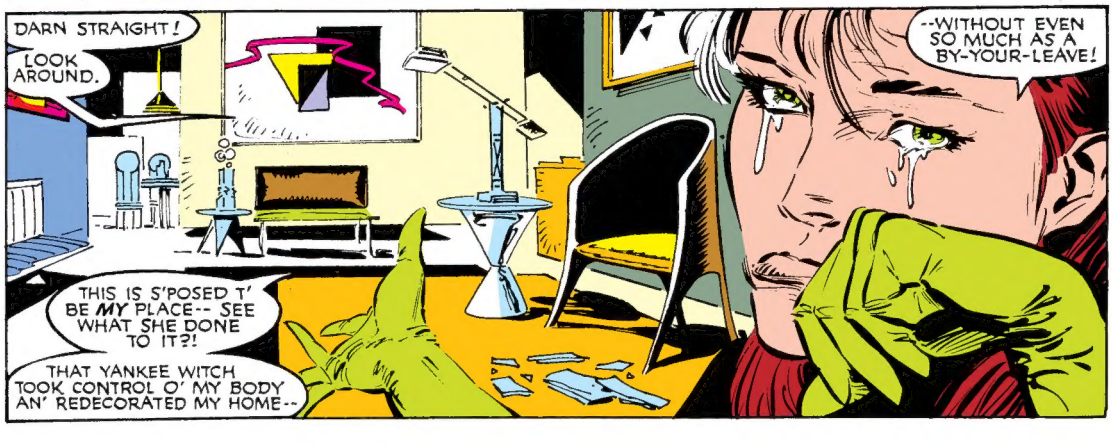
I DODGED--
--IT MISSED ME--
--BUT I HAVE NO ROOM TO MANEUVER--
--NO CHANCE TO REGAIN CONTROL OF WINDS OR SELF BEFORE I--!
CRASH!
?
SPLASH!
Ahem!
BETSY, I...
...I...
FLIKT!

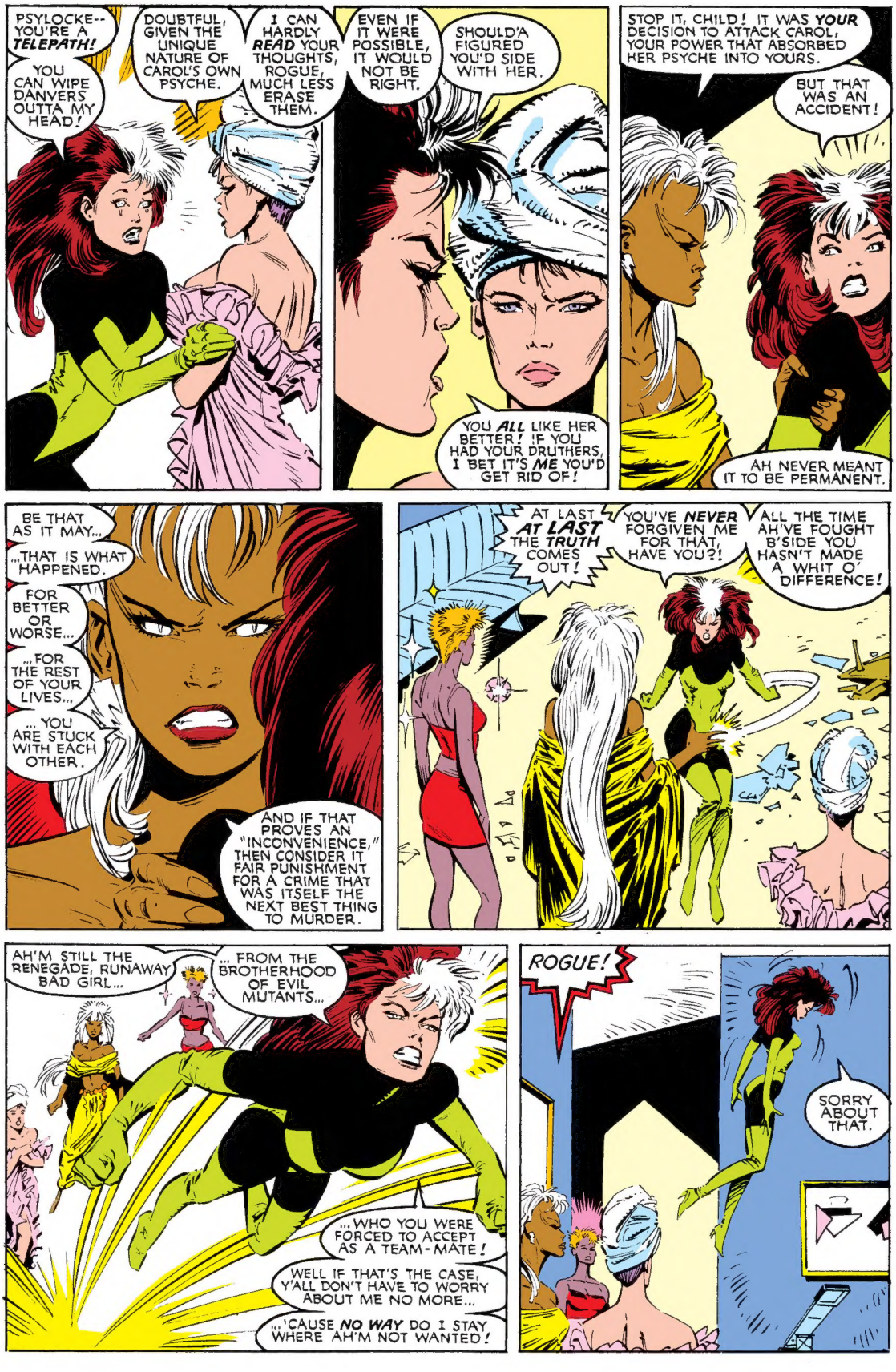

ROGUE IS THROWING A TANTRUM!
ALONG WITH EVERY STICK OF FURNITURE IN THE PLACE!
WHAT GIVES?!
I THOUGHT IT WAS LOVELY.
SKBKOW!

ROGUE!
STORM, YOU ARE DRENCHED!
LATER.
NO HARD FEELINGS, BOSS?
LATER!
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, YOUNG WOMAN!

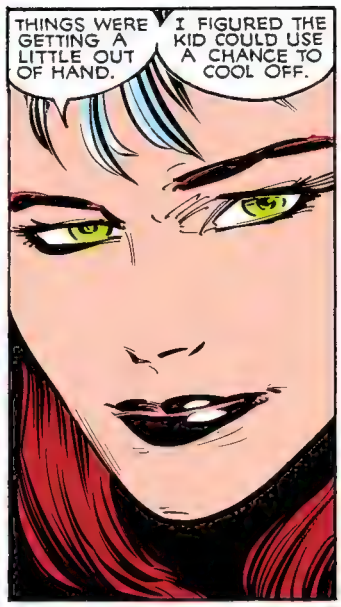
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS OUTBURST?!
IT'S HER, STORM, DON'T'CHA SEE?!
Awh GOLLY-GOSH, DON'T ANY OF Y'ALL UNDERSTAND?!!

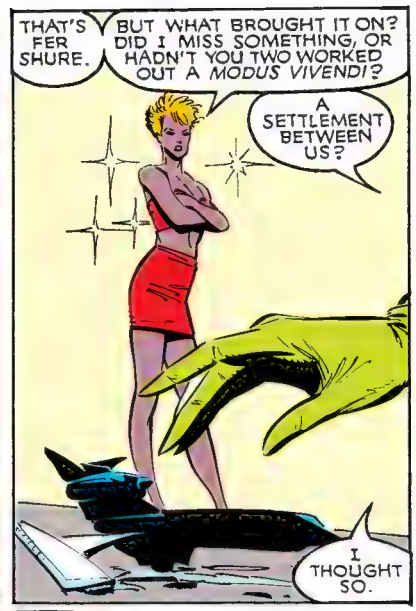

SHE MEANS CAROL DANVERS.


DARN STRAIGHT!
LOOK AROUND.
THIS IS S'POSED T' BE MY PLACE-- SEE WHAT SHE DONE TO IT?!
THAT YANKEE WITCH TOOK CONTROL O' MY BODY AN' REDECORATED MY HOME--
--WITHOUT EVEN SO MUCH AS A BY-YOUR-LEAVE!

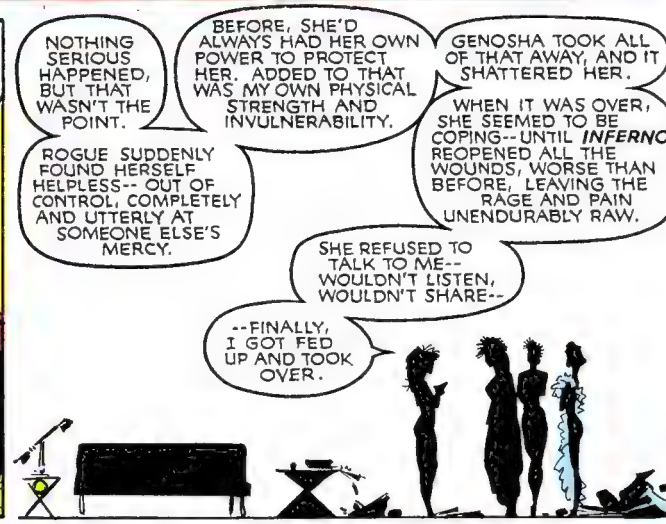

PSYLOCKE--YOU'RE A TELEPATH!
YOU CAN WIPE DANVERS OUTTA MY HEAD!
DOUBTFUL, GIVEN THE UNIQUE NATURE OF CAROL'S OWN PSYCHE.
I CAN HARDLY READ YOUR THOUGHTS, ROGUE, MUCH LESS ERASE THEM.
EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT.
SHOULD'A FIGURED YOU'D SIDE WITH HER.
YOU ALL LIKE HER BETTER! IF YOU HAD YOUR DRUTHERS, I BET IT'S ME YOU'D GET RID OF!
STOP IT, CHILD! IT WAS YOUR DECISION TO ATTACK CAROL, YOUR POWER THAT ABSORBED HER PSYCHE INTO YOURS.
BUT THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
AH NEVER MEANT IT TO BE PERMANENT.
BE THAT AS IT MAY...
...THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE...
...FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES...
...YOU ARE STUCK WITH EACH OTHER.
AND IF THAT PROVES AN "INCONVENIENCE," THEN CONSIDER IT FAIR PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME THAT WAS ITSELF THE NEXT BEST THING TO MURDER.
AT LAST AT LAST THE TRUTH COMES OUT!
YOU'VE NEVER FORGIVEN ME FOR THAT, HAVE YOU?!
ALL THE TIME AH'VE FOUGHT B'SIDE YOU HASN'T MADE A WHIT O' DIFFERENCE!
AH'M STILL THE RENEGADE, RUNAWAY BAD GIRL...
...FROM THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS...
...WHO YOU WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT AS A TEAM-MATE!
WELL IF THAT'S THE CASE, Y'ALL DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME NO MORE...
...'CAUSE NO WAY DO I STAY WHERE AH'M NOT WANTED!
ROGUE!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.

CAROL'S VOICE.
HAD TO, ALISON.
THAT MEAN SHE'S TAKEN CONTROL?

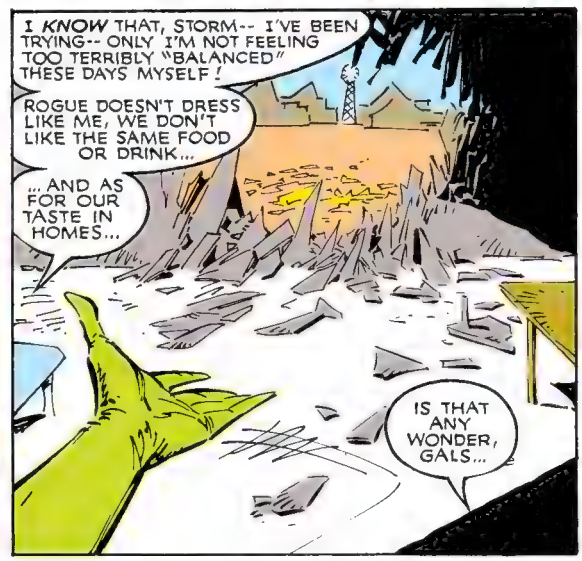

THINGS WERE GETTING A LITTLE OUT OF HAND.
I FIGURED THE KID COULD USE A CHANCE TO COOL OFF.

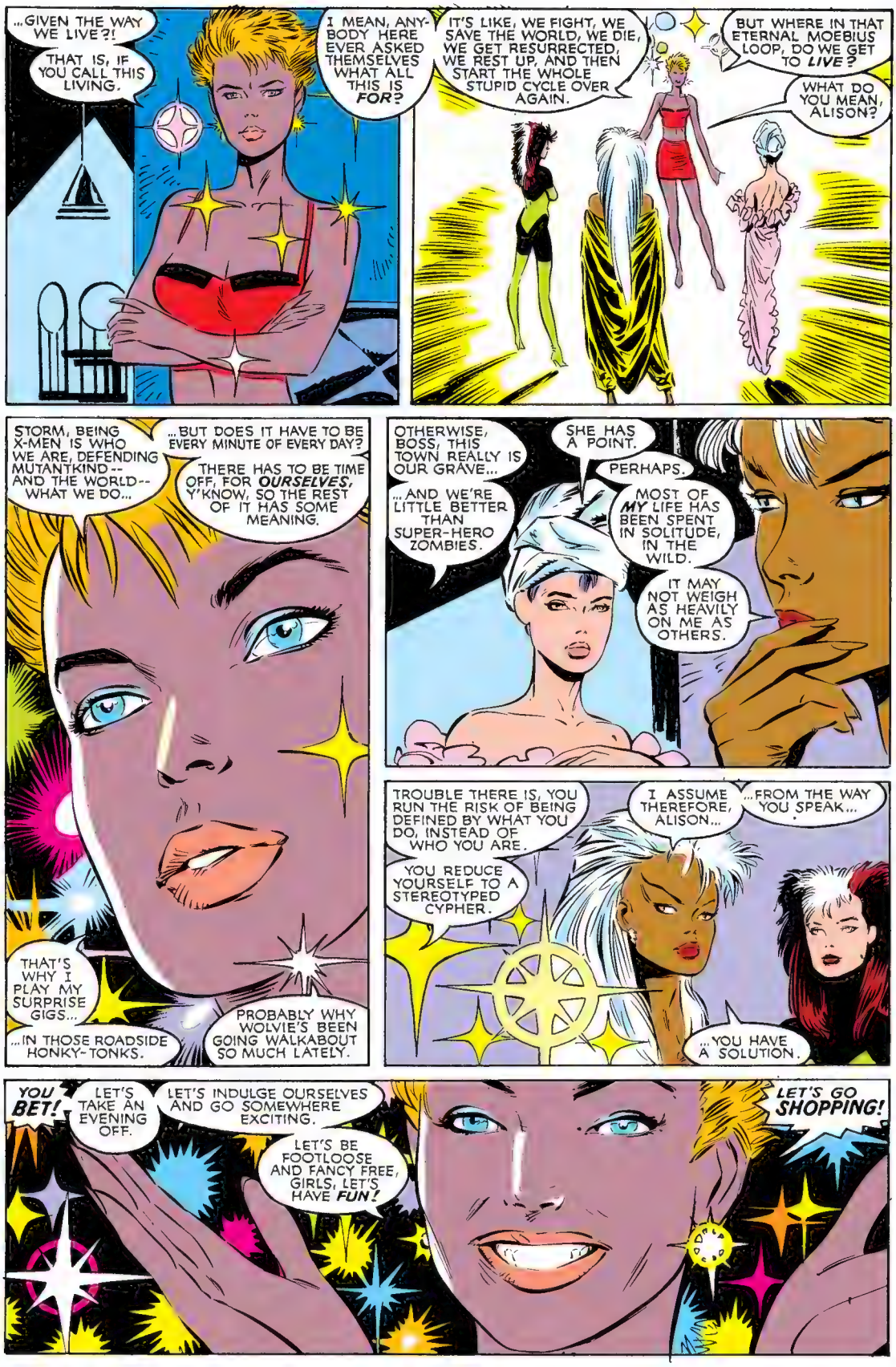

THAT'S FER SHURE.
BUT WHAT BROUGHT IT ON? DID I MISS SOMETHING, OR HADN'T YOU TWO WORKED OUT A *MODUS VIVENDI*?
A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN US?
I THOUGHT SO.

REMEMBER GENOSHA? THE MAGISTRATE ***WIPEOUT*** STRIPPED WOLVERINE AND ME OF OUR POWERS.
ROGUE WAS RUNNING THINGS, THEN.
THE GUARDS GOT A LITTLE FRESH.


NOTHING SERIOUS HAPPENED, BUT THAT WASN'T THE POINT.
BEFORE, SHE'D ALWAYS HAD HER OWN POWER TO PROTECT HER. ADDED TO THAT WAS MY OWN PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND INVULNERABILITY.
GENOSHA TOOK ALL OF THAT AWAY, AND IT SHATTERED HER.
ROGUE SUDDENLY FOUND HERSELF HELPLESS-- OUT OF CONTROL, COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY AT SOMEONE ELSE'S MERCY.
WHEN IT WAS OVER, SHE SEEMED TO BE COPING--UNTIL ***INFERNO*** REOPENED ALL THE WOUNDS, WORSE THAN BEFORE, LEAVING THE RAGE AND PAIN UNENDURABLY RAW.
SHE REFUSED TO TALK TO ME-- WOULDN'T LISTEN, WOULDN'T SHARE--
--FINALLY, I GOT FED UP AND TOOK OVER.

IN RETROSPECT, NOT MY BRIGHTEST INSPIRATION.
TRUE.
YOU CANNOT KEEP HER LOCKED AWAY FOREVER, CAROL.
FOR YOUR SAKE AS MUCH AS THE TEAM'S, YOU MUST STRIKE A BALANCE.

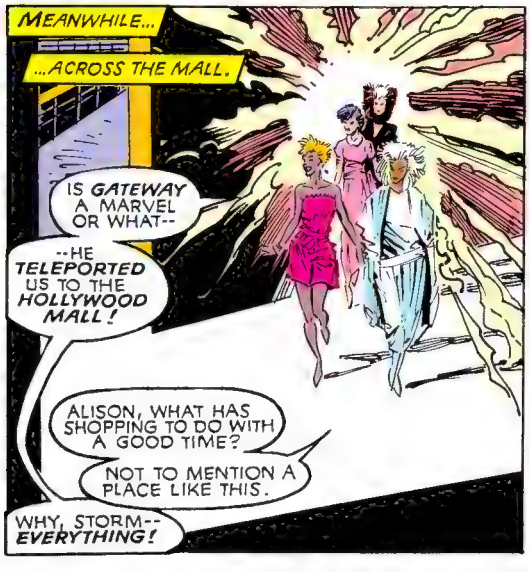

I ***KNOW*** THAT, STORM-- I'VE BEEN TRYING-- ONLY I'M NOT FEELING TOO TERRIBLY "BALANCED" THESE DAYS MYSELF!
ROGUE DOESN'T DRESS LIKE ME, WE DON'T LIKE THE SAME FOOD OR DRINK...
...AND AS FOR OUR TASTE IN HOMES...
IS THAT ANY WONDER, GALS...


...GIVEN THE WAY WE LIVE?!
THAT IS, IF YOU CALL THIS LIVING.
I MEAN, ANYBODY HERE EVER ASKED THEMSELVES WHAT ALL THIS IS FOR?
IT'S LIKE, WE FIGHT, WE SAVE THE WORLD, WE DIE, WE GET RESURRECTED, WE REST UP, AND THEN START THE WHOLE STUPID CYCLE OVER AGAIN.
BUT WHERE IN THAT ETERNAL MOEBIUS LOOP, DO WE GET TO LIVE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ALISON?
STORM, BEING X-MEN IS WHO WE ARE, DEFENDING MUTANTKIND -- AND THE WORLD -- WHAT WE DO...
...BUT DOES IT HAVE TO BE EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY?
THERE HAS TO BE TIME OFF, FOR OURSELVES, Y'KNOW, SO THE REST OF IT HAS SOME MEANING.
THAT'S WHY I PLAY MY SURPRISE GIGS...
...IN THOSE ROADSIDE HONKY-TONKS.
PROBABLY WHY WOLVIE'S BEEN GOING WALKABOUT SO MUCH LATELY.
OTHERWISE, BOSS, THIS TOWN REALLY IS OUR GRAVE...
...AND WE'RE LITTLE BETTER THAN SUPER-HERO ZOMBIES.
SHE HAS A POINT.
PERHAPS.
MOST OF MY LIFE HAS BEEN SPENT IN SOLITUDE, IN THE WILD.
IT MAY NOT WEIGH AS HEAVILY ON ME AS OTHERS.
TROUBLE THERE IS, YOU RUN THE RISK OF BEING DEFINED BY WHAT YOU DO, INSTEAD OF WHO YOU ARE.
YOU REDUCE YOURSELF TO A STEREOTYPED CYPHER.
I ASSUME THEREFORE, ALISON...
...FROM THE WAY YOU SPEAK...
...YOU HAVE A SOLUTION.
YOU BET!
LET'S TAKE AN EVENING OFF.
LET'S INDULGE OURSELVES AND GO SOMEWHERE EXCITING.
LET'S BE FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE, GIRLS, LET'S HAVE FUN!
LET'S GO SHOPPING!

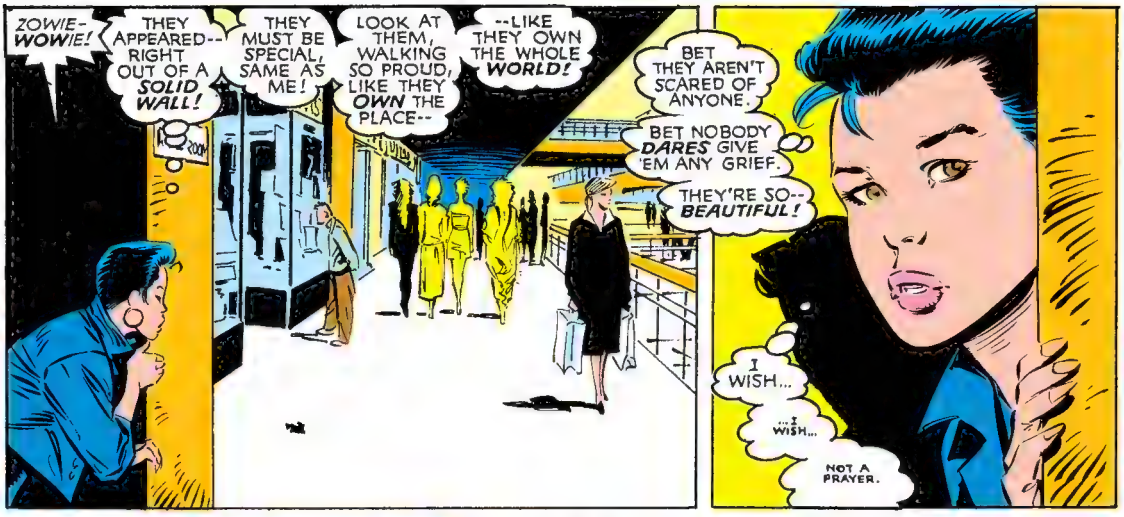
AND SO...
... BACK WHERE THIS ALL BEGAN...
Hollywood MALL
HERE THEY COME!

GEEZ, TRUCK PLAYS THEIR THEME SONG AN' EVERY-THING!
RADICAL HARDWARE, MAN!
STATE-OF-THE-ART STAR WARS!
SCREECH!
YOW!

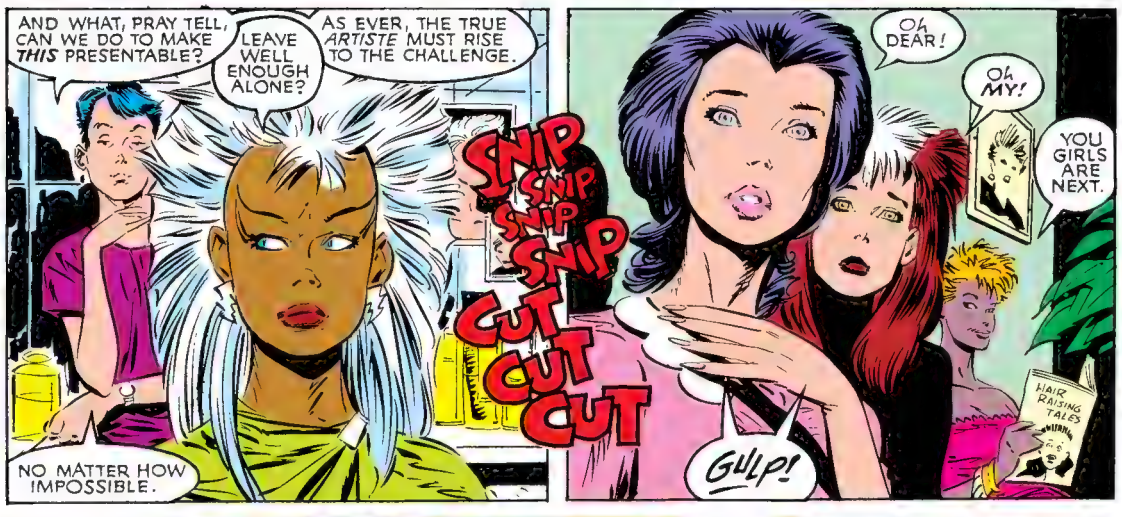
HAVE NO FEAR, CITIZENS--
--M SQUAD IS HERE!
THAT IS SO CORNY, DOCTOR.
HAVE A NICE DAY MUTIE!
THIS IS LOS ANGELES, "DOCTOR."
THINGS HERE MUST BE DONE WITH STYLE!
MY PANTS ARE TOO TIGHT.


MEANWHILE...
...ACROSS THE MALL.
IS GATEWAY A MARVEL OR WHAT--
--HE TELEPORTED US TO THE HOLLYWOOD MALL!
ALISON, WHAT HAS SHOPPING TO DO WITH A GOOD TIME?
NOT TO MENTION A PLACE LIKE THIS.
WHY, STORM--EVERYTHING!

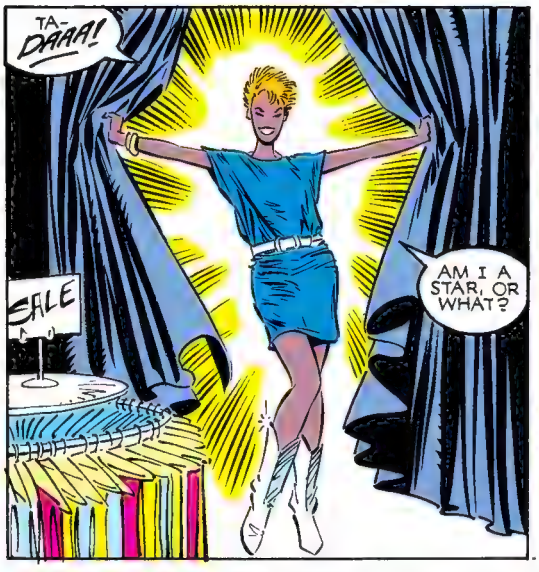
I BELIEVE THERE ARE TOWNS IN ENGLAND SMALLER THAN THIS.
ISN'T IT GREAT?!
ALL STEEL AND GLASS, SEALED OFF FROM THE SKY.
A MALL, LIKE ANY OTHER, ONLY MORESO.
THAT, MS. DANVERS, IS WHAT YOU THINK!


ZOWIE-WOWIE!
THEY APPEARED--RIGHT OUT OF A SOLID WALL!
THEY MUST BE SPECIAL, SAME AS ME!
LOOK AT THEM, WALKING SO PROUD, LIKE THEY OWN THE PLACE--
--LIKE THEY OWN THE WHOLE WORLD!
BET THEY AREN'T SCARED OF ANYONE.
BET NOBODY DARES GIVE 'EM ANY GRIEF.
THEY'RE SO--BEAUTIFUL!
I WISH...
...I WISH...
NOT A PRAYER.

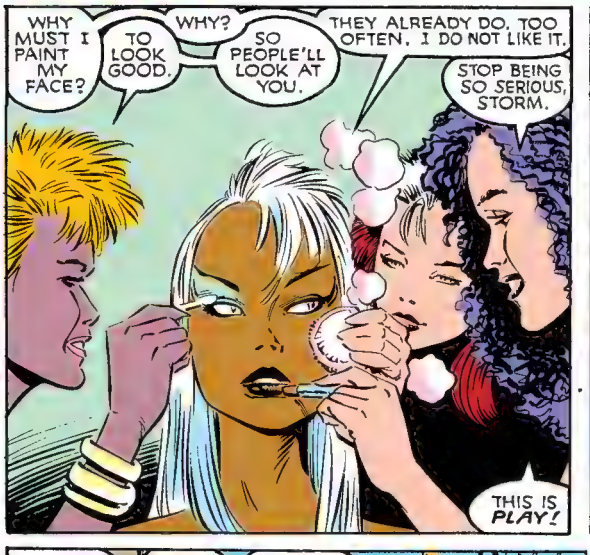
IT HAS SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS AND GALLERIES AND CLUBS AND MOVIES AND--BINGO!
FIRST STOP, GALS--PERFECTOMUNDO!
IN HERE, BOSS!
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
HEY! YOU CAN'T BE COOL UNTIL YOU LOOK COOL!


AND WHAT, PRAY TELL, CAN WE DO TO MAKE THIS PRESENTABLE?
LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE?
AS EVER, THE TRUE ARTISTE MUST RISE TO THE CHALLENGE.
NO MATTER HOW IMPOSSIBLE.
SNIP SNIP SNIP SNIP CUT CUT CUT
OH DEAR!
OH MY!
YOU GIRLS ARE NEXT.
HAIR RAISING TALES
GULP!

THAT WASN'T SO BAD, WAS IT?
NOW FOR SOME DECENT CLOTHES!
HAIREM SCAREM
I HAVE A VERY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
THEY LOOK EVEN BETTER!
TOTALLY NO FAIR!
IF I FOLLOW ALONG, MAYBE THEY'LL...
YEAH. SURE. RIGHT. FAT CHANCE.
WHAT THE HECK--I'VE NOTHING ELSE TO DO.

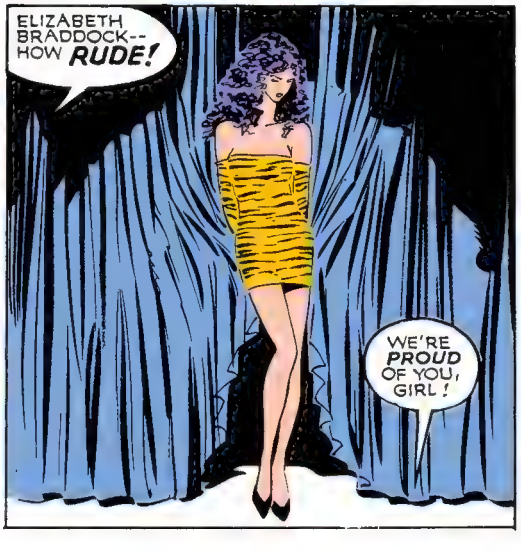

TA-DAAA!
SALE
AM I A STAR, OR WHAT?

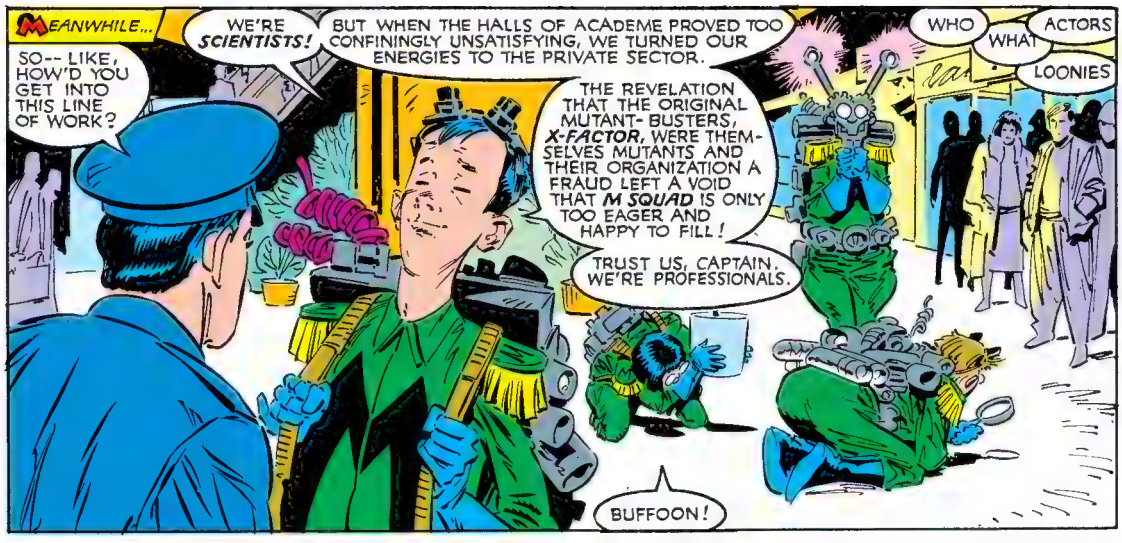
CERTAINLY GLOW LIKE ONE, LIGHTENGALE.
TO EACH THEIR OWN, ALISON.
I WOULDN'T LAUGH, STORM.
50% SALE
I SUSPECT SHE HAS WORSE IN STORE FOR US.


WHY MUST I PAINT MY FACE?
TO LOOK GOOD.
WHY?
SO PEOPLE'LL LOOK AT YOU.
THEY ALREADY DO. TOO OFTEN. I DO NOT LIKE IT.
STOP BEING SO SERIOUS, STORM.
THIS IS PLAY!

IF ROGUE DOESN'T SLAUGHTER ME FOR THE HAIRCUT...
...SHE'S SURE TO FOR THE DRESS.

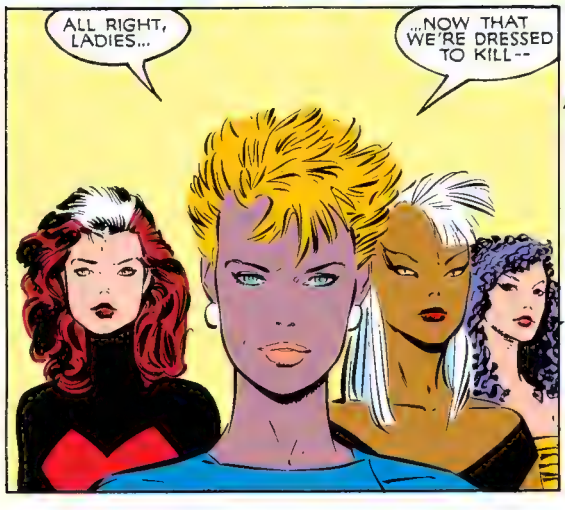
ALISON, WHERE IS THE SENSE IN WEARING HEELS SO HIGH...
...THEY NEARLY BREAK YOUR ANKLES?
HOPELESS, BETSY, UTTERLY HOPELESS.
WHY ME, oh LORD?
SO BEAUTIFUL...
...SO CRAZY.

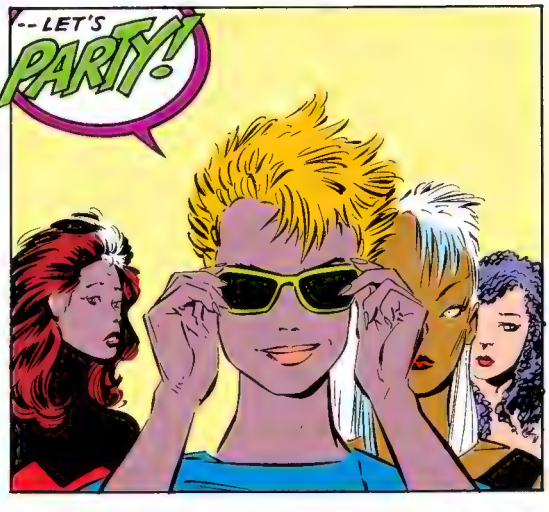

ELIZABETH BRADDOCK-- HOW RUDE!
WE'RE PROUD OF YOU, GIRL!

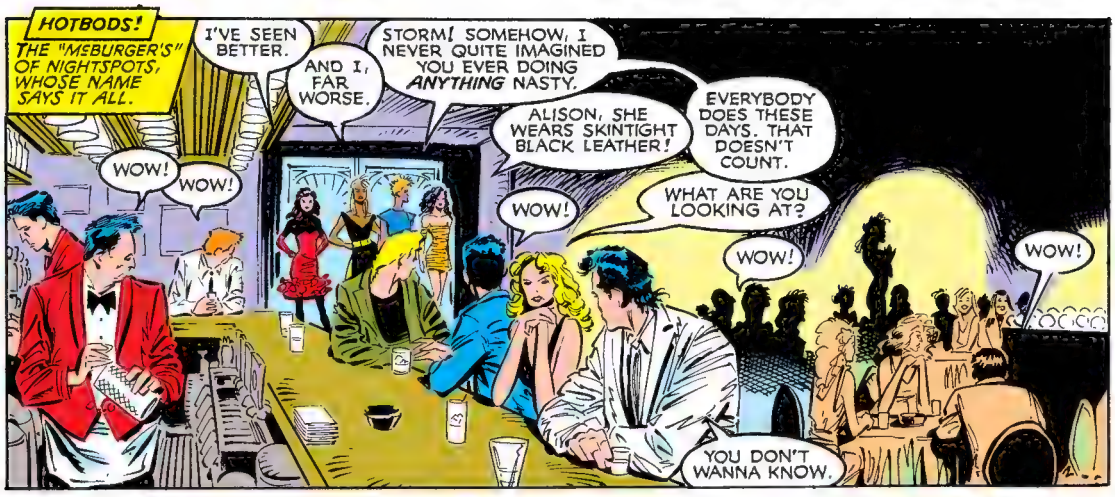

MEANWHILE...
SO-- LIKE, HOW'D YOU GET INTO THIS LINE OF WORK?
WE'RE SCIENTISTS!
BUT WHEN THE HALLS OF ACADEME PROVED TOO CONFININGLY UNSATISFYING, WE TURNED OUR ENERGIES TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.
THE REVELATION THAT THE ORIGINAL MUTANT- BUSTERS, X-FACTOR, WERE THEMSELVES MUTANTS AND THEIR ORGANIZATION A FRAUD LEFT A VOID THAT M SQUAD IS ONLY TOO EAGER AND HAPPY TO FILL!
TRUST US, CAPTAIN. WE'RE PROFESSIONALS.
BUFFOON!
WHO
WHAT
ACTORS
LOONIES

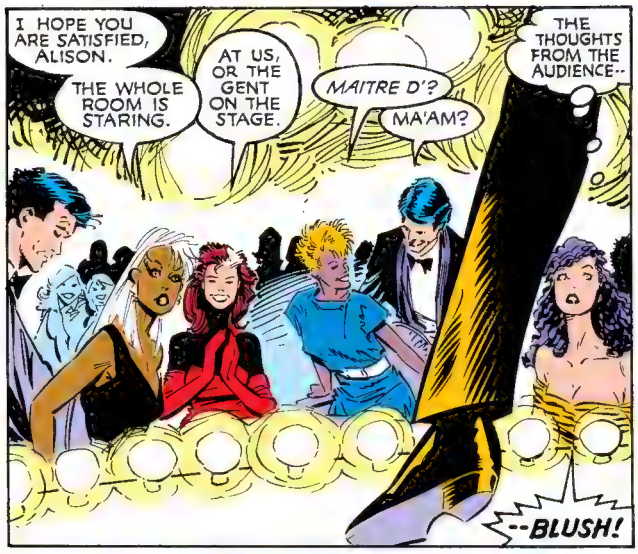
I HAVE A SOLID SCANTRYA!
WHUP!
SO--LIKE, WHEN YOU CATCH THIS MUTIE, DOC...
...WHAT'LL YOU DO WITH HER?
NOT TO WORRY. WE HAVE THE WILL, WE HAVE THE SKILL, WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY--!
WHICH WE DON'T REALLY COMPREHEND.
NOT HERE, DR. SNODGRASS. NOT NOW!
NEVEREADY

OUR CURRENT EQUIPMENT IS DERIVED FROM WHAT WE USED BACK IN MANHATTAN.
ONE NIGHT LAST SUMMER, SOMETHING HAPPENED, WE DON'T TALK ABOUT IT, THAT'S WHY WE LEFT TOWN AND CHANGED FIELDS.
EXCITABLE WOMAN. DON'T MIND HER.
BUT THE EQUIPMENT CHANGED, TOO. IT SEEMS ALIVE, SOMEHOW. AND NASTY!
DOCTOR--NONE OF IT'S BEEN PROPERLY FIELD TESTED!
THEN, MY DEAR, LET US CONSIDER THIS OUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!


ALL RIGHT, LADIES...
...NOW THAT WE'RE DRESSED TO KILL--


-- LET'S PARTY!

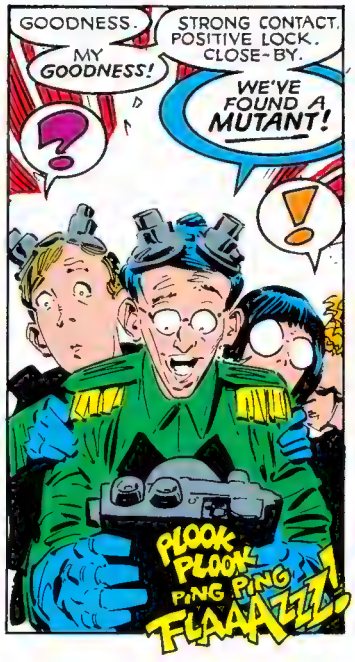

HOTBODS! THE "McBURGER'S" OF NIGHTSPOTS, WHOSE NAME SAYS IT ALL.
I'VE SEEN BETTER.
AND I, FAR WORSE.
STORM! SOMEHOW, I NEVER QUITE IMAGINED YOU EVER DOING ANYTHING NASTY.
ALISON, SHE WEARS SKINTIGHT BLACK LEATHER!
EVERYBODY DOES THESE DAYS. THAT DOESN'T COUNT.
WOW!
WOW!
WOW!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
WOW!
WOW!
YOU DON'T WANNA KNOW.

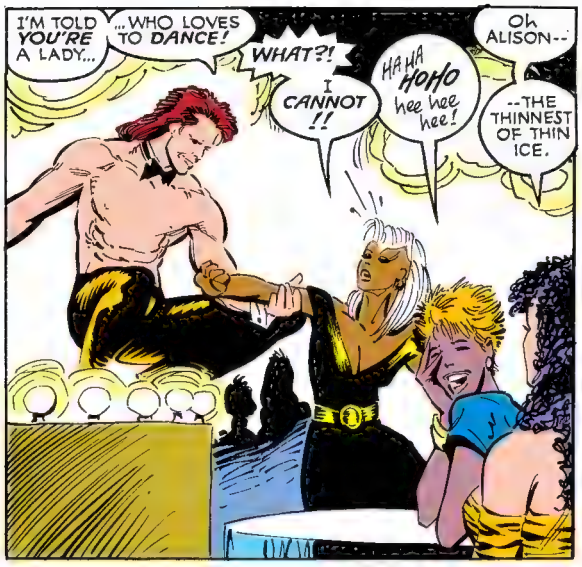

I HOPE YOU ARE SATISFIED, ALISON.
THE WHOLE ROOM IS STARING.
AT US, OR THE GENT ON THE STAGE.
MAITRE D'?
MA'AM?
THE THOUGHTS FROM THE AUDIENCE--
--BLUSH!

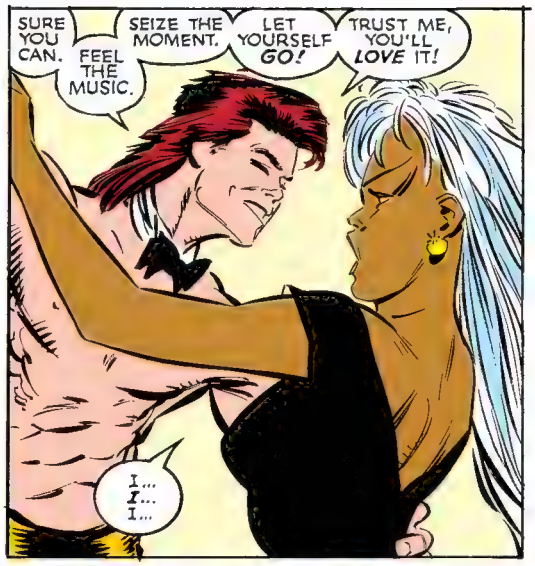
I WANT TO ARRANGE A SURPRISE FOR MY FRIEND.
CERTAINLY, MA'AM.
NO PROBLEM.
OUR PLEASURE.
ALISON!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES? SHE'LL MURDER YOU!

I'LL TAKE THE RISK.
JUST DON'T SPOIL THINGS.
IT'S YOUR FUNERAL.
BET SHE LOVES IT!

THEY'RE MY PALS!
TOUGH.
YER UNDERAGE, KID, YOU CAN'T COME IN.

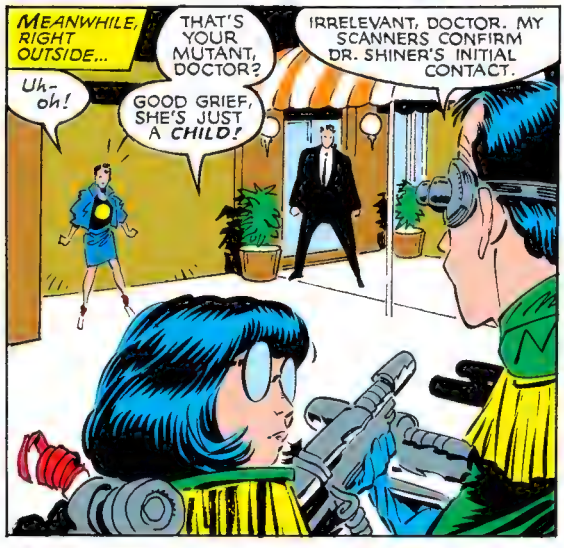

GOODNESS.
MY GOODNESS!
STRONG CONTACT. POSITIVE LOCK. CLOSE-BY.
WE'VE FOUND A MUTANT!
PLOOK PLOOK PING PING FLAAAZZZ!

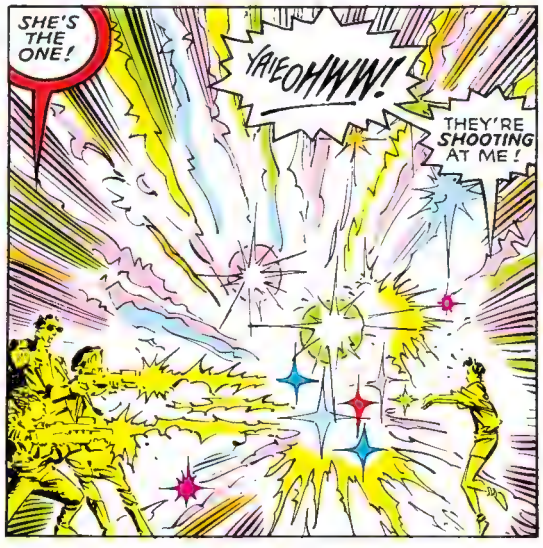

I'M TOLD YOU'RE A LADY...
...WHO LOVES TO DANCE!
WHAT?!
I CANNOT !!
HA HA HOHO hee hee hee!
Oh ALISON--
--THE THINNEST OF THIN ICE.

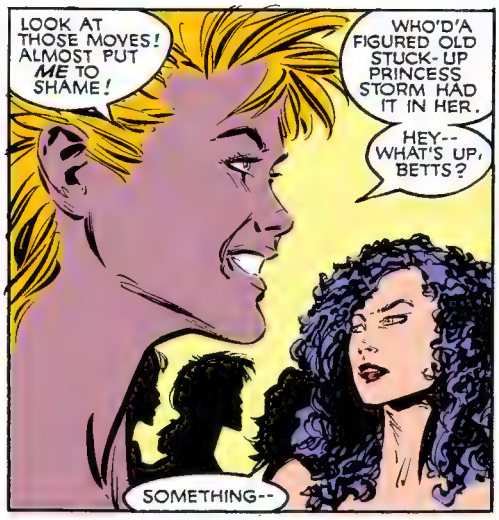

SURE YOU CAN.
FEEL THE MUSIC.
SEIZE THE MOMENT.
LET YOURSELF GO!
TRUST ME, YOU'LL LOVE IT!
I... I... I...

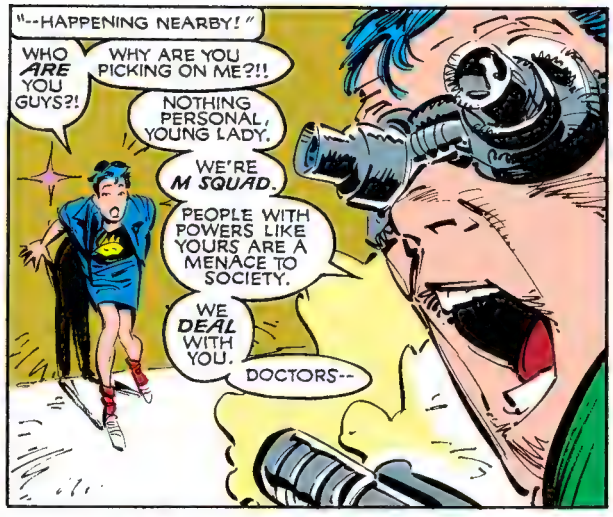
GIVE IT A WHIRL, GIRL!
YOU'VE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR DIGNITY!
DON'T BE A WEENIE, BOSS!
REMEMBER, STORM--
--PLAY!
Tweeet Whweeet!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
IS THIS FUN, OR WHAT?

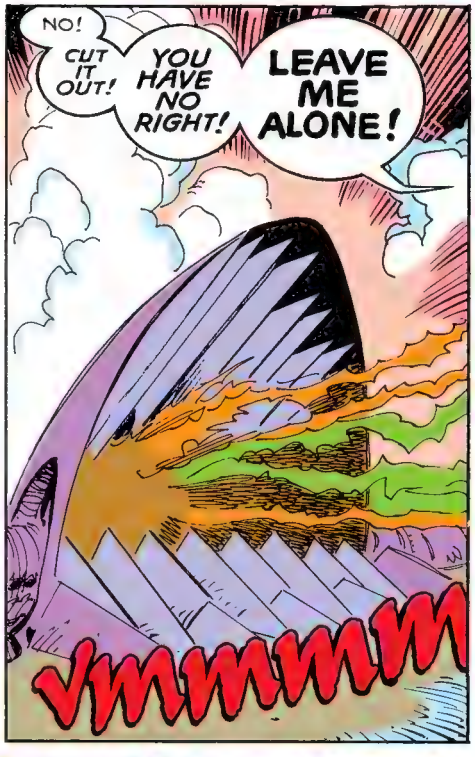

MEANWHILE, RIGHT OUTSIDE...
Uh-oh!
THAT'S YOUR MUTANT, DOCTOR?
GOOD GRIEF, SHE'S JUST A CHILD!
IRRELEVANT, DOCTOR. MY SCANNERS CONFIRM DR. SHINER'S INITIAL CONTACT.

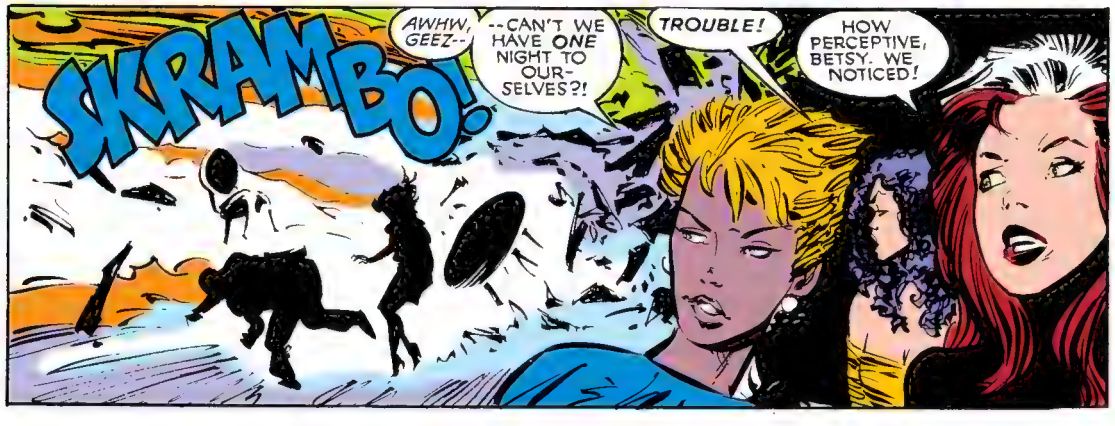

SHE'S THE ONE!
YAIEOHWW!
THEY'RE SHOOTING AT ME!

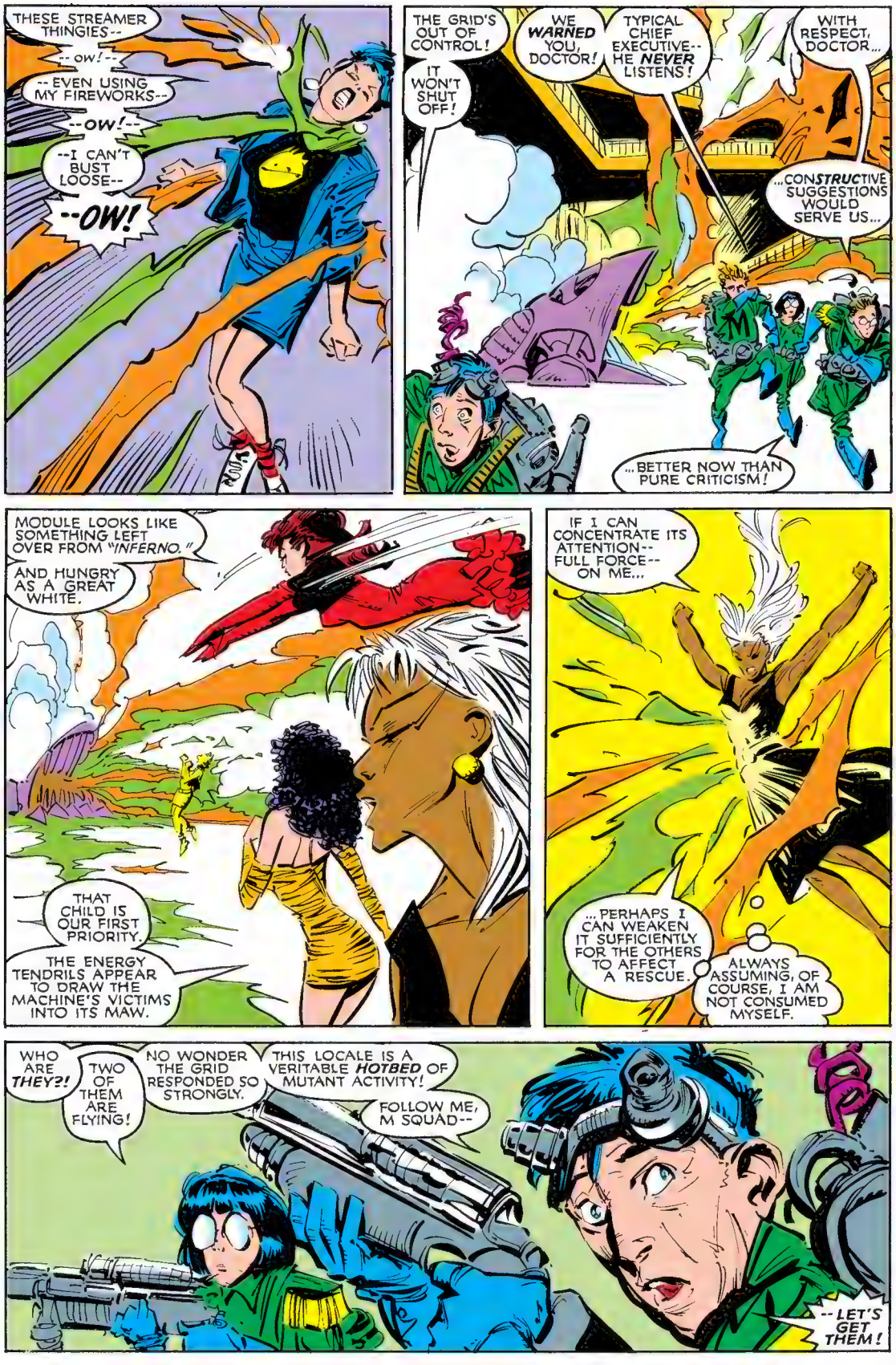

LOOK AT THOSE MOVES! ALMOST PUT ME TO SHAME!
WHO'D'A FIGURED OLD STUCK-UP PRINCESS STORM HAD IT IN HER.
HEY-- WHAT'S UP, BETTS?
SOMETHING--


"--HAPPENING NEARBY!"
WHO ARE YOU GUYS?!
WHY ARE YOU PICKING ON ME?!!
NOTHING PERSONAL, YOUNG LADY.
WE'RE M SQUAD.
PEOPLE WITH POWERS LIKE YOURS ARE A MENACE TO SOCIETY.
WE DEAL WITH YOU.
DOCTORS--

"--ACTIVATE THE MUTANT CONTAINMENT GRID!"
I DUNNO, GEORGE.
WE WEREN'T TOTALLY SURE OF ITS CAPABILITIES BEFORE--!
ONE LEARNS BY DOING, DEAR BOY.
EMPIRICISM UBER ALLES!
SWITCH ON!


NO!
CUT IT OUT!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
VMMMM


SKRAMBO!
AWHW, GEEZ--
--CAN'T WE HAVE ONE NIGHT TO OUR-SELVES?!
TROUBLE!
HOW PERCEPTIVE, BETSY. WE NOTICED!


THESE STREAMER THINGIES--
--OW!--
--EVEN USING MY FIREWORKS--
--OW!--
--I CAN'T BUST LOOSE--
--OW!
THE GRID'S OUT OF CONTROL!
IT WON'T SHUT OFF!
WE WARNED YOU, DOCTOR!
TYPICAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE--HE NEVER LISTENS!
WITH RESPECT, DOCTOR...
...CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS WOULD SERVE US...
...BETTER NOW THAN PURE CRITICISM!
MODULE LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING LEFT OVER FROM "INFERNO."
AND HUNGRY AS A GREAT WHITE.
THAT CHILD IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY.
THE ENERGY TENDRILS APPEAR TO DRAW THE MACHINE'S VICTIMS INTO ITS MAW.
IF I CAN CONCENTRATE ITS ATTENTION--FULL FORCE--ON ME...
...PERHAPS I CAN WEAKEN IT SUFFICIENTLY FOR THE OTHERS TO AFFECT A RESCUE.
ALWAYS ASSUMING, OF COURSE, I AM NOT CONSUMED MYSELF.
WHO ARE THEY?!
TWO OF THEM ARE FLYING!
NO WONDER THE GRID RESPONDED SO STRONGLY.
THIS LOCALE IS A VERITABLE HOTBED OF MUTANT ACTIVITY!
FOLLOW ME, M SQUAD--
--LET'S GET THEM!

Bullpen Bulletins

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Hey. . .wait a minute! I just remembered! This circus doesn't have any Gorillas!"

—BRUNO THE STRONGMAN
SHE-HULK #1

ITEM: Shades of Assistant Editors' Month! Recently, based on the hairbrained suggestion of **Jim DiGiovanna** and **Glenn Herdling**, we shuffled around all assistant editors for a day so that **Mike Rockwitz** was paired with **Craig Anderson**, **David Wohl** with **Bobbie Chase**, **Marc Siry** with **Terry Kavanagh**, **Daryl Edelman** with **Jim Salicrup**, **Pat Redding** with **Greg Wright**, **Sara Tuchinsky** with **Don Daley**, **Sue Flaxman** with **Howard Mackie**, **Dwayne McDuffie** with **Ralph Macchio**, **Marcus McLaurin** with **Bob Budiansky**, **Glenn Herdling** with **Carl Potts**, and **Jim DiGiovanna** with **Bob Harras**. Supposedly, this was an extension of the weekly assistant editor classes held by **Mark Gruenwald** and **Tom DeFalco**, wherein Mark and Tom impart the Wisdom of Ages to the next generation of Marvel editors. So what did all the assistants learn? Well, they did get a real insight to how other Marvel editors conducted their day-to-day business, and at a meeting afterward, they all discovered that **Jim Salicrup** reads his comics out loud. Let the record show that **A. A. Perry**, **Sid Jacobson's** assistant, refused to have any part in this.

ITEM: Now if any of you are getting the idea that it's all fun and games around the so-called batty Bullpen, well, it is. . .sometimes. For instance this past Halloween our very own exec editor **Mark** (him again) **Gruenwald** literally organized the fun and games. **Dwight Coye**, the man who returns all the original artwork to the artists, won the David Wohl Bop Bag Toss, the Pin-The-Nose-On-The-Gru, and the Knock-Down-The-Assistant-Editor-Cans competitions. **Lynda Strunk**, our limber typesetter, won the women's limbo and the **Bobbing** for **Budi**-apples contests. The repro department's **Rodney Timmons** took top honors in the men's limbo contest. Ridiculous **Ralph Macchio** kicked himself in the "face" to win the Kick-The-Witch event. **Peter David** pitched the penny that produced the prize in the Pitch-The-Penny-In-The-Pumpkinhead. Cover coordinator **Vince Evans** blasted the winning ball into the likeness of *devil* **Don Daley's** mouth, while **Don Hudson** won the Stuff-Your-Mouth-Full-Of-Candy-Pumpkins, proving what a big mouth he has. But it was **Tom DeFalco** who should win the best sport award—poor Tom was forced to sit still as everyone tried to toss plastic rings on his cigar and on the horns of his special wool cap. **Mike Rockwitz** won by zinging three rings in a row onto Tom's stogey. . .and he's still working here!

ITEM: Congratulations to newlyweds **John Romita, Jr.** and **Chris Claremont**! No, no, John and Chris didn't marry each other! John wed **Patricia Baker** on October 8th, and on October 9th Chris tied the knot with **Beth Fleisher**. We wonder how many of you Bullpen Page followers remember that J.R. was our one and only "Hunk of the Month"? Johnny would like all of you to forget that. Indeed, he would consider it your wedding present to him if you never mentioned "Hunk of the Month" to him ever again. Happy now, J.R.?

ITEM: Next month heralds the return to this page of the legendary column by the man who started it all! That's right, in thirty days **Stan Lee's** Soapbox will be back on the Bullpen Page! And Stan's got an extra-special announcement we're sure none of you will want to miss! *Excelsior!*

Pro file: MARC SIRY

Assistant Editor on: CAPTAIN AMERICA, DAREDEVIL, FANTASTIC FOUR, THOR, and about sixty thousand graphic novels.

Marvel freelance credits (past): Assorted HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE work; assorted coloring jobs; fake ads and real contents pages for the WHAT THE—?! limited series, and enough letters pages to drown a whole army of David Wohls.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Assorted coloring jobs; the ALPHA FLIGHT and PUNISHER letters pages; and more junk for the upcoming WHAT THE—?! 64 page specials.

My hobbies are: Drawing, paintball wargames with Carl Potts, and fixing my Triumph Spitfire, which is really Satan in the form of a little red convertible.

The single work which I am most proud of is: Probably the fake ad on the back cover of WHAT THE—?! #2 which nobody read because the type was too small.

My pet peeves are: Falling for the old Marc-McLaurin-rings-my-phone-while-I'm-clear-on-the-other-side-of-the-office-so-I-have-to-run-for-it-and-he-hangs-up-just-as-I-get-there-trick. It works every single time. He thinks it's really funny.

My place of birth is: New York City.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Living in New York City all my life without getting mugged. If you don't think that's a great accomplishment then you must not live in New York City.

My oddest habit is: Hanging out until the wee hours of the morning in my neighborhood (Lower East Side) watering holes with my pals David Wohl (of New Universe fame) and Michael Yee (of Bullpen fame), even though I know full well I have to be at work at 9:00 A.M. the next day. . .

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: I've been told I look like George Michael and Jon Cryer, but George and I have similar shaving habits, so he gets the part.

The reason I got into comics was: It looked like so much fun!

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Irresponsible, unethical, and morally bankrupt. Or was that college?

My favorite performers are: RUN-DMC, DEVO, R.E.M, and Michael Rockwitz doing his brilliant impersonations.

The last good book I read was: LOLITA by Nabokov.

The last good movie I saw was: The original version of THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE.

The biggest influences on my work include: Eliot Brown, and everything else I've ever seen or heard.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: Down the hall, but she'd get upset if I printed her name.

The worst part of my job is: The tremendous mound of garbage that piles up on my desk every day.

When nobody's looking I like to: Put the tremendous mound of garbage on Ralph Macchio's desk.

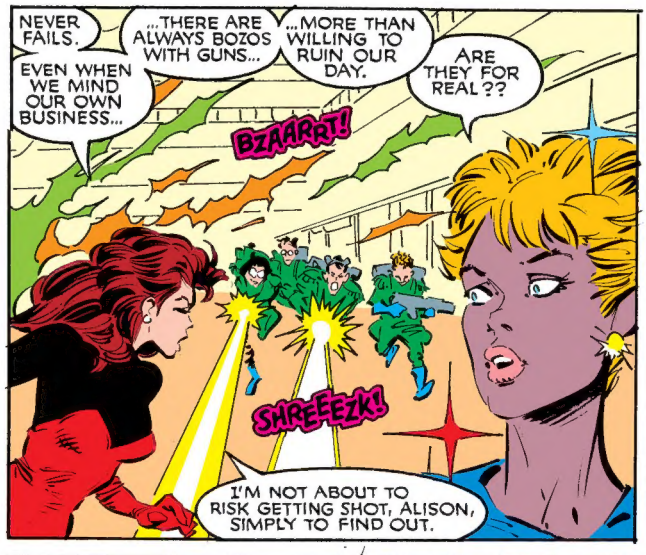
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: That my two roommates, Stephanie and Andrea, will never forgive me if I don't mention their names. (I hope they haven't kicked me out by the time this sees print!)

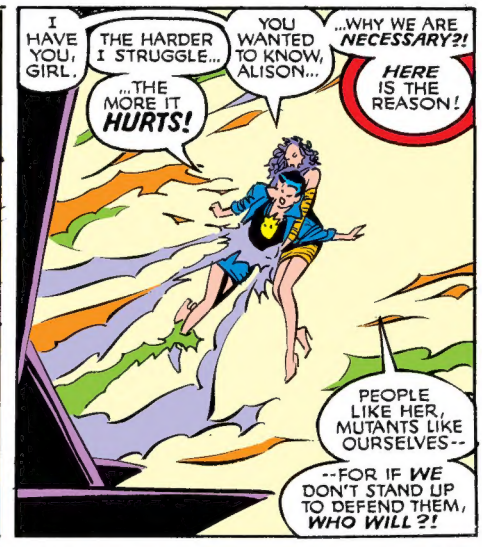
✓ Checklist

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #266
- ☐ SEMPER FI #6
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #44
- ☐ WOLFPACK #10
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #21
- ☐ CONAN THE KING #52
- ☐ EXCALIBUR #8
- ☐ SHE-HULK #1
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #29
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #50
- ☐ G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS #8
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #353
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #18
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #315
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #75
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #19
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #70
- ☐ WOLVERINE #7
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #74
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #355
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #223
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #303
- ☐ CONAN #218
- ☐ DAMAGE CONTROL #1
- ☐ G.I. JOE #86
- ☐ THE PUNISHER #19
- ☐ THE SILVER SURFER #23
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #244
- ☐ THE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER #5
- ☐ THE FANTASTIC FOUR #326
- ☐ SPEEDBALL #9
- ☐ THOR #403
- ☐ DINO-RIDERS #3
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #52
- ☐ X-FACTOR #40
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #20
- ☐ IRON MAN #242
- ☐ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #150
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #33
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #4
- ☐ THE 'NAM #30
- ☐ POWER PACK #46

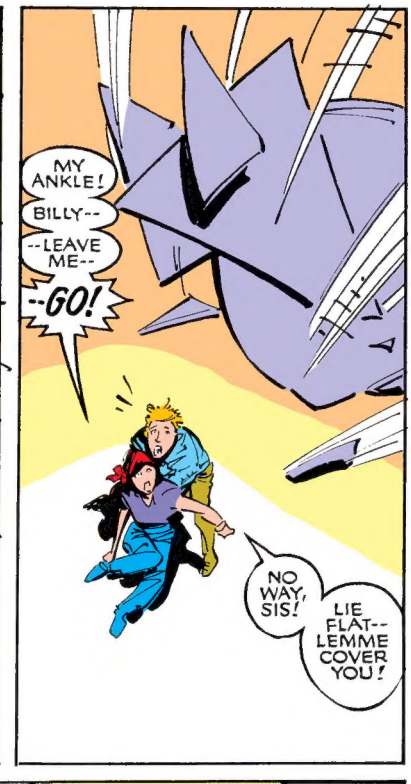
MARVEL MAGAZINES

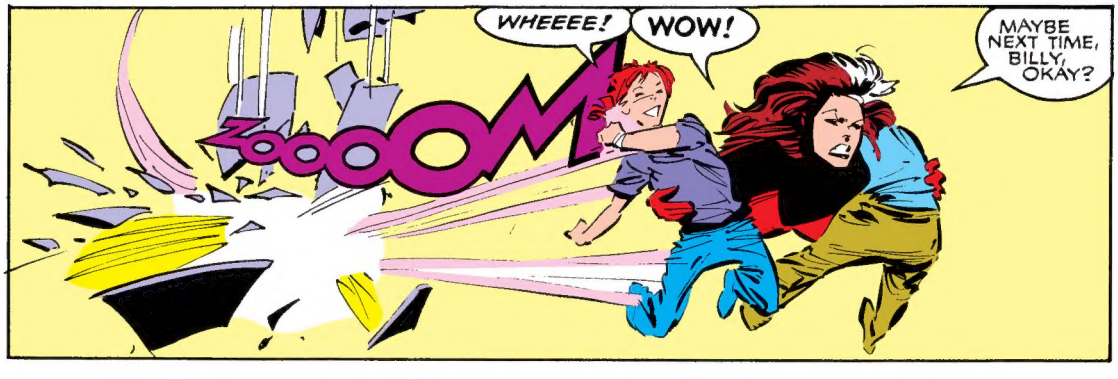
- ☐ THE 'NAM MAGAZINE #10
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #159
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #24

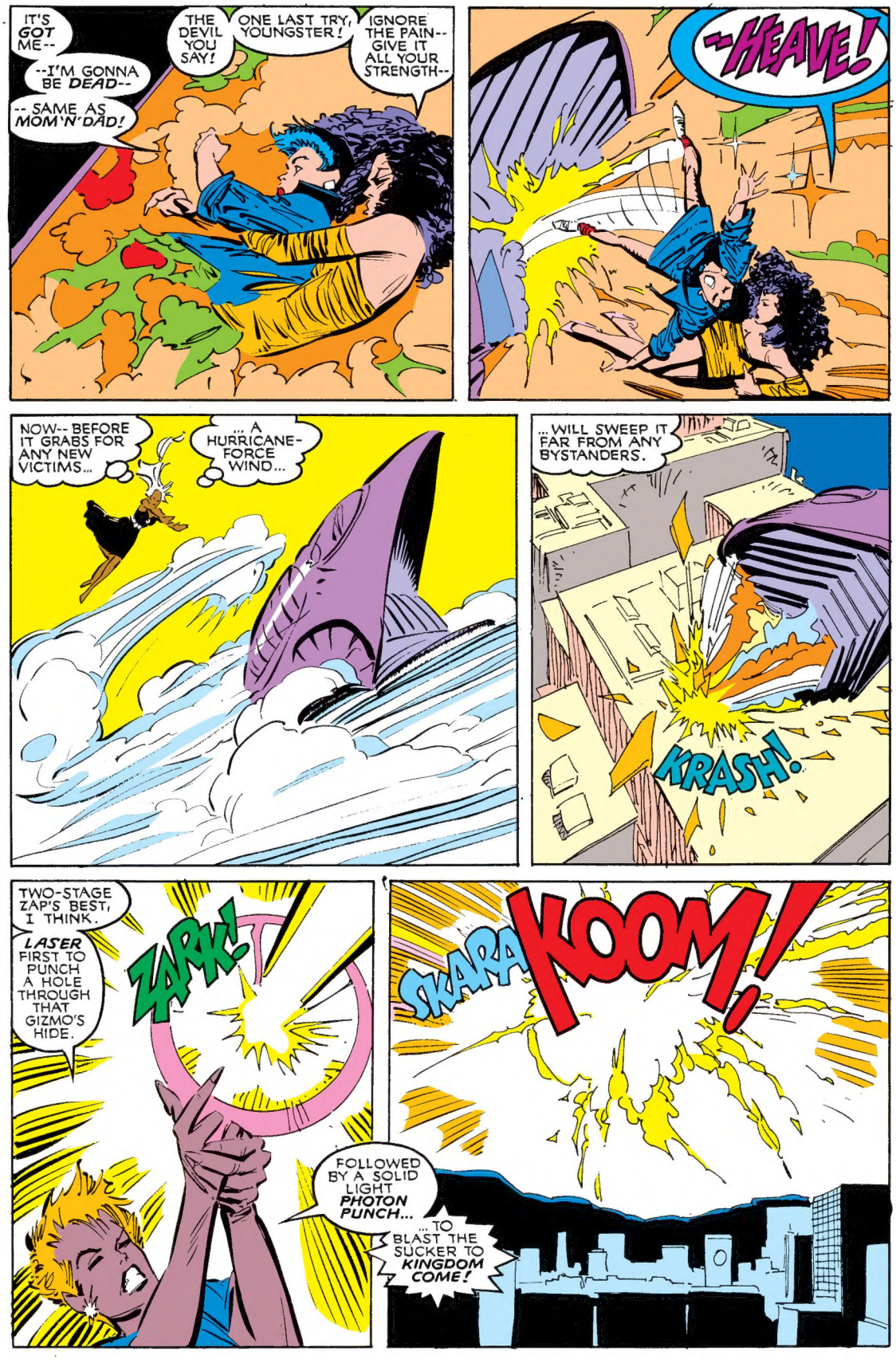

NEVER FAILS.
EVEN WHEN WE MIND OUR OWN BUSINESS...
...THERE ARE ALWAYS BOZOS WITH GUNS...
...MORE THAN WILLING TO RUIN OUR DAY.
ARE THEY FOR REAL??
BZAARRT!
SHREEEZK!
I'M NOT ABOUT TO RISK GETTING SHOT, ALISON, SIMPLY TO FIND OUT.

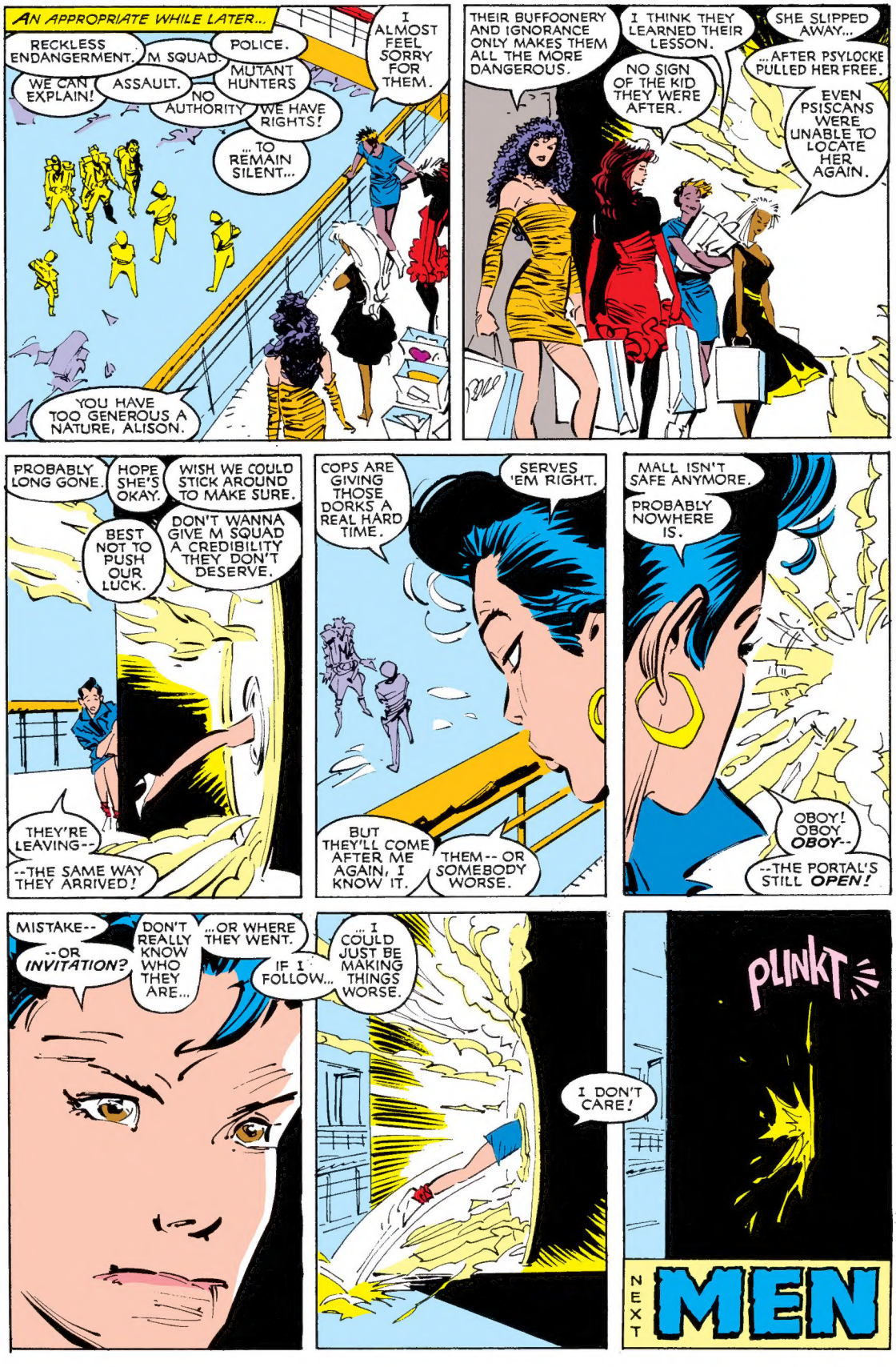

I HAVE YOU, GIRL.
THE HARDER I STRUGGLE...
...THE MORE IT HURTS!
YOU WANTED TO KNOW, ALISON...
...WHY WE ARE NECESSARY?!
HERE IS THE REASON!
PEOPLE LIKE HER, MUTANTS LIKE OURSELVES--
--FOR IF WE DON'T STAND UP TO DEFEND THEM, WHO WILL?!

SKBAM!
LOOK OUT!
ONE'A THEM BEAMS--
--HIT THE MOBILE--
--IT'S COMIN' DOWN!


MY ANKLE!
BILLY--
--LEAVE ME--
--GO!
NO WAY, SIS!
LIE FLAT--LEMME COVER YOU!


WHEEEE!
WOW!
ZOOOOOM
MAYBE NEXT TIME, BILLY, OKAY?


IT'S GOT ME--
--I'M GONNA BE DEAD--
-- SAME AS MOM'N'DAD!
THE DEVIL YOU SAY!
ONE LAST TRY, YOUNGSTER!
IGNORE THE PAIN-- GIVE IT ALL YOUR STRENGTH--
--HEAVE!
NOW-- BEFORE IT GRABS FOR ANY NEW VICTIMS...
... A HURRICANE-FORCE WIND...
... WILL SWEEP IT FAR FROM ANY BYSTANDERS.
KRASH!
TWO-STAGE ZAP'S BEST, I THINK.
LASER FIRST TO PUNCH A HOLE THROUGH THAT GIZMO'S HIDE.
ZARK!
FOLLOWED BY A SOLID LIGHT PHOTON PUNCH...
... TO BLAST THE SUCKER TO KINGDOM COME!
SKARA KOOM!


AN APPROPRIATE WHILE LATER...
RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT.
M SQUAD.
POLICE.
WE CAN EXPLAIN!
ASSAULT.
MUTANT HUNTERS
NO AUTHORITY
WE HAVE RIGHTS!
... TO REMAIN SILENT...
I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.
YOU HAVE TOO GENEROUS A NATURE, ALISON.
THEIR BUFFOONERY AND IGNORANCE ONLY MAKES THEM ALL THE MORE DANGEROUS.
I THINK THEY LEARNED THEIR LESSON.
NO SIGN OF THE KID THEY WERE AFTER.
SHE SLIPPED AWAY...
...AFTER PSYLOCKE PULLED HER FREE.
EVEN PSISCANS WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE HER AGAIN.
PROBABLY LONG GONE.
HOPE SHE'S OKAY.
WISH WE COULD STICK AROUND TO MAKE SURE.
BEST NOT TO PUSH OUR LUCK.
DON'T WANNA GIVE M SQUAD A CREDIBILITY THEY DON'T DESERVE.
THEY'RE LEAVING--
--THE SAME WAY THEY ARRIVED!
COPS ARE GIVING THOSE DORKS A REAL HARD TIME.
SERVES 'EM RIGHT.
BUT THEY'LL COME AFTER ME AGAIN, I KNOW IT.
THEM-- OR SOMEBODY WORSE.
MALL ISN'T SAFE ANYMORE.
PROBABLY NOWHERE IS.
OBOY! OBOY OBOY--
--THE PORTAL'S STILL OPEN!
MISTAKE--
--OR INVITATION?
DON'T REALLY KNOW WHO THEY ARE...
...OR WHERE THEY WENT.
IF I FOLLOW...
... I COULD JUST BE MAKING THINGS WORSE.
I DON'T CARE!
PLINK!
NEXT
MEN

MINUTEMEN
Bluntman